Tropical Storm Condition 3 hoisted over Saipan, Tinian. » PAGE 3

Two men arrested for alleged sexual abuse of 15-yr.-old girl. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Roberto found not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal court jury rendered a unanimous verdict yesterday, acquitting Raymond B. Roberto of all charges that he enticed three minor girls to engage in prostitution and tampered a witness while he was in jail.

After nine days of deliberation, the 12 jurors found the 41-year-old Roberto not guilty of three counts of enticing minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

After a court staff read the verdict at 2:40pm, Roberto stood up, cried, and tightly hugged his counsel, Joaquin DLG. Torres. His lead counsel, Guam lawyer David J. Lujan, was not present.

Roberto's wife and older brother were also in tears.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy thanked the jurors and ordered Roberto's release.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Raymond B. Roberto's older brother hugs defense attorney Joaquin DLG. Torres outside the federal court shortly after the jurors rendered yesterday afternoon a verdict finding Roberto not guilty of all charges.

Voters breach 18,000-mark

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Early voting for those in Northern Islands begins but no actual voting yet

After breaching the 17,000-mark for the first time in CNMI history just a few weeks ago, the number of registered voters further climbed to a little more than 18,000.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said that as of yesterday, the number of registered voters stood at 18,002 and there could be a few changes as they continue to receive postdated voter registration mail and some names may be deleted from the list for recent deaths, for example.

In the previous general election year in 2009, the number of registered voters was 16,146. In 2005, the number was 15,118.

"In my opinion, it's good that the number of registered voters is up," Guerrero said, adding that either a lot more individuals in and outside the CNMI are taking an interest in government and politics or a lot of young adults are

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Inos speaks of public auditor naming, his health, casino corruption claims

» 'Mariana Resort deserves fair opportunity to renew lease in 4 years'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Inos

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday it is "far too premature" to say whether Public Auditor Michael Pai will be reappointed or replaced, even as Pai's term expires in less than a month. The Inos administration also says the governor is "doing fine" amid concerns about his health, and asks individuals who believe they have evidence of corruption related to the exclusive Saipan casino legislation to come forward.

Pai earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the Office of the Public Auditor has not received any formal request to investigate elected officials who went on investor-paid trips to Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore and later pursued passing a Saipan casino bill.

The governor also said that answer-

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INSIDE

LOCAL

U.S. Marines work to prevent the brown tree snake from entering Tinian.

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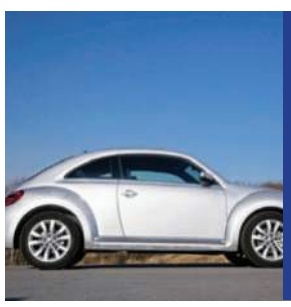

OVERDRIVE

The 2014 Volkswagen Beetle looks like a finely aged version of its '70s self.

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LIFE & STYLE

George Clooney and his new bride make an appearance in Venice.

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Local

MARIANAS INDIGENOUS CONFERENCE

A focus on four 'hot-button' issues of the day

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

"Lessons learned and a way forward" was the theme that welcomed nearly a hundred to the Northern Marianas Descent Corp.'s inaugural Marianas Indigenous Conference, which raised issues concerning people of the CNMI.

"Understanding the fundamental premises of our constitutional form of government and the vital historical context on which our self-government and relationship with the U.S was negotiated will help better form our value judgments and perspectives for a healthier democracy," NMDC president Herman R. Deleon Guerrero said in his remarks yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The conference promised to educate the public on important and so-called "hot-button issues" affecting CNMI.

With several members of the CNMI's 18th Legislature, government officials, students, and the public attending—including about 385 people from around the world streaming the conference live—the conference focused on four fundamental topics: the political status of the CNMI's Covenant agreement with the United States, federalization, Article 12, and submerged lands and adjacent waters.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said this kind of event honors and embraces the indigenous identity and celebrates CNMI history as well as those who have made the CNMI their home. He said the issues discussed are critical and important today.

"How do we move forward in the global society as an indigenous people, with the shared responsibility and shared opportunities with those who have made these islands their home?" Inos asked. "How do we celebrate our diversity yet uphold what is unique to each one of us? These are issues that we must discuss among ourselves and at the same time, embrace inputs from everyone in the community."

The keynote speaker, former Guam senator Dr. Hope A. Cristobal, said that people should embrace the indigenous people and its culture and should be aware of the issues confronting them.

Cristobal said that Guam changed the moment the United States made it part of its territory and the CNMI should not follow in the same footsteps.

NMDC president Deleon Guerrero said that in 1978, when the CNMI entered into political union with the U.S., legal-minded scholars started to redefine the meaning of the Covenant to suit their motives.

Deleon Guerrero also said the U.S federal government "side-stepped" the Covenant and issued major policies and policy directives without meaningful consultations that run contrary to the promise of the Covenant.

He hopes that the conference will help foster a deeper appreciation, strengthen respect, and rekindle lasting hope among the CNMI's indigenous people.

"I challenge us to be more assertive as NMDs and residents by proactively participating in constructive civic discourse and positively contributing to the formulation of more sensible public policies based on sound and in-depth understanding of our Covenant and our rights guaranteed by it," he said.

Duty free sales nearly double, number of passengers shows growth at airport

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Duty free sales have nearly doubled at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, even as food and beverage sales have remained flat over the last six years, according to a Ricondo and Associates report prepared for the Commonwealth Ports Authority on concession program and optional leasing strategies.

In fiscal year 2009 duty-free sales were $9.48 million, increasing in fiscal 2010 to $9.67 million, and increasing again in fiscal 2011 to $10.69 million.

The increase continued in fiscal 2012 with sales totaling $13.04 million. This went up to $14.98 million in 2013, and reached $17.84 million in 2014.

Food and beverage sales for the last six years were around $700,000 to $900,000, according to the data.

The number of enplaned passengers per fiscal year moved between around 425,000 to above 500,000 passengers, with fiscal 2013 having the largest number of passengers with 517,187, according to Ricondo.

For fiscal 2014, the number of enplaned passengers reached 510,000. For 2012, it was 513,472; for 2011, 404,652; for 2010, 422,542; and for 2009, 425,982.

Duty free sales in fiscal 2014 topped 2013 sales by nearly $3 million despite the decrease in enplaned passengers.

This fiscal year, duty free sales per passenger reached a high of $44.82 over the last six years.

In 2013, this number was at $35.83; in 2012, 32.92; in 2011, $35.41; in 2010; 29.01; and in 2009, $28.90.

Currently, DFS has the "exclusive right to operate facilities at each and every port…for the sale of duty-free and other items of merchandise" under its current master concession agreement with CPA, according to Ricondo in its report. That agreement is set to expire in 2015.

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Rosalyn Quintanilla
Director of Rooms, Hyatt Regency Saipan

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"This is a place where I come to work, wanting to come to work. I wake up and say, 'I'm needed today.' We also do a lot of activities with our families. My daughter remembers the first Relay for Life, and she remembers all the American Red Cross walkathons we did. When I started with this company, I felt that management cared about me, and now that I'm a manager, I also want to make sure our staff members are taken care of and make them feel the way I felt when I was a rank-and-file worker.

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KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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For most Wednesdays and Fridays starting in September, pediatricians from CHCC will be providing services at the Kagman Community Health Center. The pediatricians will be able to see well child checks, Head Start check-ups, any sick children visits, or any patients with chronic diseases.

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Tropical Storm Condition 3 hoisted over Saipan, Tinian

»Typhoon Watch for Alamagan and Pagan

At 4pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm 18W was located about 390 miles east-southeast of Rota, 375 miles southeast of Tinian and Saipan, and 485 miles southeast of Pagan.

Tropical Storm 18W is moving west at a speed of about 13 mph. This motion is forecast to continue with a turn toward the west-northwest last night through Wednesday afternoon, putting the system over the Northern Mariana Islands tonight and Wednesday.

Maximum sustained winds are 40 mph. Tropical Storm 18W is expected to steadily intensify through Wednesday afternoon, making it a strengthening tropical storm over the Northern Mariana Islands tonight and Wednesday.

Because of the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm 18W, Gov. Eloy S. Inos has declared Tropical Storm Condition III for the islands of Saipan and Tinian and Typhoon Watch for Alamagan and Pagan as of 4pm yesterday.

For the residents of Saipan and Tinian, take extra precautionary measures when driving on the highways due to heavy rain showers and possible flooding in low lying areas associated with Tropical Storm 18W.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be monitoring the movement of Tropical Storm 18W and will be issuing bulletins as they become available. ***(HSEM)***

SHEFA board stalls on regulations for NMTI, trade school scholars

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Office is still working on establishing a policy dealing with vocational and trade schools in the CNMI.

This yet-to-be-approved policy of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, would specifically cater to vocational and trade institute students who are eligible to apply and avail of the program's financial assistance.

According to SHEFA, board members during their board meeting last week said they're not denying Northern Marianas Trade School scholarships, but eligibility requirements are necessary to be able to receive financial assistance.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa said that 29 NMTI applicants had turned in their applications for spring semester 2014, but they were not able to meet the required time on applications turned in.

According to Rasa, half of the 29 applicants are high school graduates. The policy for SHEFA is that all are required to be high school graduates or in a postsecondary school. The only issue is the Saipan Local Law 16-11 for SHEFA. That law requires the student to be a high school graduate with a diploma or its equivalent, yet are simultaneously enrolled in a high school or a high school equivalency program and who are enrolled in a trade institution such as NMTI.

Without the policy change from SHEFA, Saipan Local Law 16-11 cannot be addressed. According to SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan, they will be meeting sometime next week on the policy so that the issue can be addressed.

Man whose doc fraud conviction was reversed gets 30-day term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Chinese national whose conviction of immigration document fraud was reversed on appeal was sentenced to just 30 days in prison, for making a false statement to a federal agent.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter on Friday resentenced Wei Lin on Friday to 30 days in prison, with credit for time served. This means Lin immediately goes free as he has already served six months in prison.

Lin shall serve one year of supervised release with, among the conditions, that he will be turned over to an immigration official for deportation.

Attorney Mark Hanson, counsel for Lin, pointed out that the initial sentence ordered the defendant to pay a $300 mandatory assessment. Hanson said it should only be $100 because two of the counts have been dismissed. Carter agreed and ordered that the assessment reflects $100 with no restitution.

A federal jury found Lin guilty of two counts of document fraud due to his possession of two driver's licenses he illegally obtained from the Department of Public Safety, and one count of making a false statement to a federal agent. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced him to six months in prison and gave him credit for the six months he has already served in jail.

Lin appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse his conviction.

In December 2013, the Ninth Circuit overturned his conviction as to two counts of document fraud. The Ninth Circuit, however, upheld Lin's conviction on making a false statement to a federal agent. The Ninth Circuit sent the case back to federal court.

In overturning the conviction, the Ninth Circuit ruled that a driver's license is not considered one of the documents authorizing entry into the United States, as outlined by the law that Lin was convicted of violating.

On making a false statement matter, the Ninth Circuit said a federal agent asked Lim through a translator whether he had any "identification documents" and he said he did not, even through a duplicate license was in his wallet.

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REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals & Priorities for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)
STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES
(FY 2015)

[CLIENT / COMMUNITY SERVICES]

GOAL 1: To provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: Facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for eligible individuals with disabilities in the community (at least one more than the previous fiscal year).

Priority 1.2: Facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: Facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: To advance the understanding of and appreciation for Protection & Advocacy services and disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: Facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: Promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: Foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

[ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS]

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.

*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. **Department of Education (DOE)**/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the **Social Security Administration (SSA).**

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Garapan eyed to start off 'flower island' project

The Marianas Visitors Authority's rebranding effort of turning the CNMI into a "flower island" could soon start at the tourist district of Garapan.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said they have to move along on the flower island project and they could possibly move some funds to start it off by November or December.

WIN Landscape Planning and Design managing director Junichi Inada presented the project early in July as a means to increase the island's beauty.

Inada's concept aims to rejuvenate and refresh the brand images of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota into that of a beautiful beach resort destination full of green trees and colorful flowers.

Inada eyes seven zones on Saipan that could be used for the project: the "welcome zone" at the airport area, the east side called the eco-corridor, the west side called the flower corridor, Managaha Island as the paradise zone, the north side memorials as the flower garden zone, and Mt. Tapochau as the wild flower mountain zone.

The main highways leading to all major hotels on the east side of Saipan will be called the flower road and will be planted with numerous flowers, while the road to the airport will have a different flower style. The road leading to the island's upper areas will feature different flowers as well. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

VOTERS

From Page 1

stepping forward to vote for the first time.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Guerrero's predecessor, separately said yesterday that the present executive director could more precisely point to the causes for the historic level of registered voters but he ventured to say that it "could be a combination of several things."

"One is natural progression; many are turning 18 years of age," he said.

Sablan also noticed an organized effort to register voters from the non-indigenous communities and from those who will be 18 years old on Nov. 4, 2014.

"I also noticed that there were some registrants who were over 18 years old who registered to vote for the first time," Sablan said.

The delegate added that the Election Commission also made trips to Guam, Hawaii, and the mainland to register, or re-register, Northern Mariana Islands citizens temporary residing in those jurisdictions.

"All these combined could have contributed to the about 12.5-percent increase in registered voters. We can now wait to see how many actually vote to gauge if a growing interest in politics and government contributed to the increase in registered voters," he added.

Guerrero also said it would be "interesting" to find out whether a larger percentage of this year's registered voters will actually cast their votes in the Nov. 4 general elections.

The CNMI's actual voter turnout averages at mid-70 to mid-80 percent.

This is higher than the United States' national election voter turnout average of below 60 percent since at least 1972.

Of the 18,002 registered CNMI voters, 27 percent or 4,897 is from election district 1 on Saipan covering San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville.

Nearly 20 percent or 3,549 are from election district 3, which covers San Jose/Oleai and Garapan.

Election district 5 or Kagman has 2,829 registered voters, followed by election district 4 with 1,814. Election district 4 covers Tanapag, San Roque, Capital Hill, and the Northern Islands.

Rota or election district 7 has 1,800 registered voters, while Tinian or election district 6 has 1,658.

The smallest election district, 2, or the Chalan Kanoa/Susupe area, has 1,455 registered voters.

Early voting

Meanwhile, early voting for about a dozen registered voters who are actually living in the Northern Islands started on Sept. 20.

But because no boat from Saipan has since gone to Pagan, Alamagan, and other islands where voters are, the Election Commission has yet to facilitate their voting.

Guerrero said early voting for Northern Islands voters currently on Saipan will begin on Oct. 28, the same as the early voting on Saipan.

"The early voting that started on Sept. 20 is only for those who are actually in the Northern Islands. That begins earlier to make sure we're able to accommodate them. Because no boat has gone up to the Northern Islands yet from Saipan, we cannot bring the ballots there yet," said Guerrero.

Moreover, at least 72 additional absentee ballots will be mailed out this week in addition to over 1,400 sent out on Thursday last week. Absentee voters should expect to get their ballots either later this week or next week. There are now 1,690 absentee voters.

A special election to fill a Senate vacancy will be held on the same day as that of the Nov. 4 general elections to save nearly $100,000 by holding two elections on the same day.

The CNMI is also headed for a third election in November. If none of the four gubernatorial teams garner at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast, then there will be a gubernatorial runoff race.

ROBERTO

From Page 1

As he walked free outside the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Roberto told reporters that the U.S. government withheld a lot of information in this case. He refused to elaborate.

Roberto is a former acting director of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Torres said he is always a big believer of the jury system.

"Although it's not always [that we] get our way, this time it has and the jury saw the case. They deliberated for long time and we thank them so much. We thank every single one of them for the verdict that they've come up," Torres said.

Next up for Roberto is to regroup and start all over, he said, adding that Roberto deserves to get back his work because there is no reason why he shouldn't go back to his old job.

When asked if the defense team was surprised with the evidence the prosecution presented, Torres replied "no," that they knew the game plan and just did their best.

Torres said probably the most difficult part of the case for the defense was dealing with the age of the girls.

Torres said Roberto's wife also thanked him for returning her husband to her.

Adrian Palacios Murig, the jury's foreperson, said they took into consideration everything that was brought to them during the trial, the physical evidence such as the binders that were given to them to review and all the logs, text messages, a lot of documents, and also the oral testimony that they heard in the courtroom.

Murig declined to comment when asked if the jury believes that Roberto did not have sex with any of the three girls.

"That was one of the questions, but one of the jurors stressed that they don't believe that was the question of the case," he said.

Murig said the jurors believe that the question was whether or not Roberto enticed the alleged victims or minors.

"We cannot pinpoint exactly who is texting. The phone can be registered to anybody. You can borrow my phone and text one," he said. "It's something that you would want to see with your bare eyes for such a punishment or for such a case or allegations to anybody."

Murig said they all agreed that the number was Roberto's phone, but that to actually say that he was the one texting, they're not there to know the actual person who pressed the "sent" button.

"The jury as a whole just asks the community to please respect our verdict," he said.

Murig admitted that he was questioned last week over a Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Green Gala event where he met by coincidence Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who served as one of the defense's investigators.

Murig said he had a couple of drinks with Leon Guerrero, but they never discussed the case. He said Leon Guerrero saw his relative, a politician, so he came to their table.

"All we spoke about was a picture painting that he [Leon Guerrero] was bidding for," Murig said.

The trial began on Aug. 8. Jury selection lasted seven days—said to be the longest so far in the CNMI. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia M. Limtiaco prosecuted the case.

Aside from retaining Lujan and Torres as his counsel, Roberto also hired Leon Guerrero and two private investigators from Guam.

The prosecution called 10 witnesses, including the three underage victims, while the defense called nine witnesses.

In the third superseding indictment, Badawy alleged that Roberto persuaded three underage girls to engage in prostitution or in sexual activity from March 1, 2013 to July 18, 2013.

On the witness tampering matter, Badawy stated that the offense happened on April 24, 2014 while Roberto was detained pending trial.

Badawy said the defendant attempted to obstruct, influence, and impede the case by attempting to influence the testimony of an individual.

The prosecutor said Roberto attempted to persuade the same individual to alter, destroy, and conceal evidence.

INOS

From Page 1

ing the question of whether he will consider granting a pardon to former governor Benigno R. Fitial if the latter is convicted of corruption charges "could unduly influence the legal process currently underway."

"I have a deep respect for our judicial system and am confident that all parties involved will have ample opportunity to present their case. There will be an appropriate time to address this issue but that time will not come until the judicial process is completed," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, amid impeachment proceedings over charges of corruption, neglect of duty and felony. Inos, as then lieutenant governor, became governor that same day. A corruption case against Fitial remains pending.

Public auditor

Pai's six-year term as CNMI public auditor ends on Oct. 26, just a few days before the Nov. 4 general elections. A Fitial appointee, Pai has had meetings with Inos regarding his term as public auditor and matters related to OPA.

"Mike and I have had discussions regarding this matter and he is fully aware that the formal review process is underway. It is far too premature for me or for anyone in this administration to comment on what potentially may or may not happen," the governor said.

Inos said this process has several factors to be considered, including past and ongoing auditor peer reviews and required financial audit of the agency.

The governor said that once the process is completed, a report will be presented to him and at that point, he will make a decision based on the results.

"I take very seriously the rule of our Constitution and the power it grants the Office of the Governor—one of which is the ability to appoint, reappoint all agency heads. I would also urge people to allow for the process to be completed as it is unfair to both Mike and this administration for his non-elected employment to be debated in the public eye," Inos added.

Pai said he's "not at liberty to comment on the meeting with the governor."

Governor's health

The governor has been receiving dialysis treatment for his diabetes thrice a week, drawing concerns from members of the community.

Inos' political opponents have also been making this an issue against him in the Nov. 4 general elections.

This is Inos' first time to seek election as governor. Besides Inos of the Republican Party, the other gubernatorial candidates are former governor Juan N. Babauta, an independent; former speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, also an independent; and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" Deleon Guerrero.

Inos' predecessor, Fitial, was also receiving medical treatment while in office. Fitial, who underwent surgery to correct spinal stenosis, was at times on a wheelchair but continued to govern and managed to get re-elected.

Acting press secretary Ivan Blanco said yesterday that the administration "appreciates the thoughts and concern from the people regarding the governor's health."

"Please rest assured that the governor is doing fine. He is adhering to a strict healthy diet regimen," he said.

Blanco said what is more pressing is the alarming rate of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, which is not only affecting the adult population "but has managed to creep upon the innocence of our children."

"The governor has firsthand experience of this affliction, and has instituted and supported programs such as 'Let's Move Marianas,' 'Buy Local, Eat Healthy,' among other health programs in schools and in the community. We continue to encourage everyone to exercise, eat healthy, and teach these values to our children," Blanco said.

Casino

A bill allowing an exclusive casino license for Saipan passed both the House and Senate early this year without public hearings and committee report, despite years of resistance from voters and lawmakers themselves.

The manner in which the latest casino bill passed the Legislature and signed into law has been raising allegations of corruption in one form or another.

To date, no local agency, including OPA, has looked into these allegations. There are unsubstantiated claims that a lawmaker or lawmakers received as much as half a million dollars in exchange for supporting casino legislation.

The administration reiterated yesterday that "if someone has evidence that one of their elected officials was the recipient of illegal funds, then they need to present that evidence immediately."

"The proper authorities will determine whether such allegation warrants further investigation. I fully support the peoples' right to support or oppose any issue but when you have individuals that make accusations without proof, it is slander and is seriously unfair to the hard-working people of our Commonwealth who worked so hard to identify and enact the 25 percent retiree benefits and interests payment solutions. I strongly believe that should any of the allegations become something real, the full extent of the law should weigh down on the offenders," Inos said.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said he's not aware of allegations that money changed hands in the process of pursuing a Saipan casino bill but he said he "wouldn't be surprised if such occurred." Dela Cruz consistently voted against casino bills on Saipan.

Best Sunshine International Ltd., whose parent firm is based in Hong Kong, was granted a license to exclusively develop an integrated casino resort on Saipan. While the minimum required investment by law is $2 billion, Best Sunshine committed to invest $3.14 billion and as of last week, that commitment increased to $7.1 billion.

But Best Sunshine has been having difficulty securing land for its integrated casino resort.

The governor said he is not aware that Best Sunshine is asking for adjustments on the agreed upon timeline.

"Until such time a request is submitted to the Lottery Commission, we will continue to honor the agreement," he said.

Mariana Resort

DPL offered Best Sunshine the area south of Mariana Resort & Spa for phase 1 of its integrated casino resort project. Best Sunshine has been eyeing the current location of Mariana Resort, whose lease expires in 2018.

When asked whether Best Sunshine will be offered the current Mariana Resort location for the next phases of its project, the governor said "Marianas Resort deserves a fair opportunity to renew their lease in four years."

"They have been a productive and valuable member of our Commonwealth community and again, having a debate on an issue that is four years away is not helpful to the process. We will continue to work with them just like we have been for the last 40 years," said the governor, who turned 65 on Friday.

USPS responds to customer woes

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Lines at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa can reach up to about 40 people or more during regular workdays, according to one customer. The waiting time, he said, can sometimes last an hour. The same customer, who requested anonymity, told *Saipan Tribune* that packages his family members sent from the U.S. mainland on one occasion was supposed to be delivered within two weeks but came a month and a half later.

"The service has been like this for a very long time. I ordered clothes for my little girl once, also for the new school year, and it took forever to get here," he added.

Another customer said he paid for his item to be shipped under priority mail but the item arrived in his mailbox five week later.

According to the USPS website, international priority mail service is "reliable and affordable" and takes up to six to 10 business days to deliver packages up to 70 lbs to over 180 countries.

The frustration of the customers was shared by many others interviewed by this reporter. Another customer claimed that she paid for items purchased from Macy's online under "Free Shipping" but was charged for it at the post office counter.

Saipan Tribune sought comments from local Postmaster James Constable. The local USPS manager said he is not authorized to give any comments to the media.

USPS corporate communications specialist Duke Gonzales, in an email, said he is "not aware of cases involving Priority Mail pieces being delivered noticeably late."

» Gonzales: We apologize for the inconveniences

He added that customers that have parcels shipped by FedEx or UPS are tendered to USPS under what they describe to be "priority service." The expectation for FedEx and UPS mail delivery is four to six weeks after being received in California and later shipped to Saipan, according to Gonzales.

In a response to a complaint from a customer claiming that mail from Guam takes two weeks to get here, Gonzales explained that it should not typically take that amount to time for packages from the southern island to reach Saipan.

"But our mail transportation system is a complex international network of planes, ships, and delivery vehicles that encompasses many contractors. The more steps that a mail piece must take, the greater the likelihood that one of those contractors has issues," he said. "We actively manage our transportation network to ensure the best possible service to our customers, but occasionally there are breakdowns in the system. We apologize for the inconveniences caused by such breakdowns and pledge our best effort to minimize them in the future."

Gonzales also said the office is aware of the long lines at the Post Office and has responded to them by fully staffing the service counters at all times.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that one of the challenges at the Saipan Post Office is serving business customers who ship large volume of parcels and require special services such as Certified Mail, Registered Mail, and customs declaration forms for international pieces. In such cases, he said, the transaction can take up to 20 minutes for each individual customer.

"That's the reality of serving an isolated, multinational community," he said. "And, it certainly contributes to the lengthy wait times for our customers."

As for customers paying for items purchased online and are promised "free shipping", Gonzales said that customers must pay postage on short-paid mail pieces as it is standard policy and "an essential business practice in our current financial state."

One employee at the Chalan Kanoa Post Office said that they've charged customers for items purchased online that are under "free shipping" because the business they are buying it from did not weigh the product correctly.

"Every U.S. Post Office makes an effort to identify postage due pieces and ensure proper payment before making delivery," Gonzales said. He noted that each short-paid package represents lost revenue for the organization.

He advises Saipan residents making such payments for online products to notify the senders of the mail to ensure that they will not be put in the same position in the future.

Gonzales said he has reached out to Macy's to inform them about the postage discrepancies and are working with them to prevent recurrences of the issue.

He said that situation at the Saipan Post office will continue to be closely monitored, especially during the holiday rush.

"We will consider making adjustments to better serve our customers in the future," he said.

Two men arrested for alleged sexual abuse of 15-yr.-old girl

Two men were arrested Friday for allegedly having sex with the same 15-year-old girl in separate incidents on Saipan.

Jamin Daniel C. Dela Cruz, 20, was arrested in Finasisu for two counts of sexual abuse of a minor, while Jose Mendiola Cepeda, 40, was apprehended in Dandan for six counts of sexual abuse of a minor.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a $15,000 and $30,000 cash bail each on Dela Cruz and Cepeda respectively.

Preliminary hearing for Dela Cruz and Cepeda will be on Oct. 7 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed counsel for Dela Cruz. Cepeda told the court his family would retain a private lawyer.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a detective got a call Thursday morning from the child's father, who reported about what had happened to his daughter.

Kintoki said that during their interview with the 15-year-old girl, the minor disclosed that she and Dela Cruz started talking and exchanging text messages in November 2013. One time during that period, Dela Cruz picked up the girl from her school and brought her to his parents' apartment in Finasisu, where they had sex. At the time, no one was in the apartment. Dela Cruz later dropped her back to school and allegedly told her not to tell anyone about what happened.

Kintoki said the girl also disclosed that she had sex with another adult, Cepeda, the first time in December 2013, at the girl's grandmother's house.

The second incident allegedly happened sometime in January or February 2014, when Cepeda picked her up from school and brought her to his house, where they had sex.

Cepeda allegedly had sex with her from December 2013 until Sept. 6, 2014. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

USMC identifies missing Marine

Clancy

TINIAN—Corporal Donovan E. Clancy, 26, assigned to Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, has been identified as the service member who was declared missing while wading in heavy current on the northwestern shore of Tinian on Sept. 26.

The current search for Clancy coordinated by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam began the evening of Friday, Sept. 26. Participating units include Marine Air Group 12 Marines; the Saipan Department of Public Safety; the Tinian DPS; Patrol Squadron 5; Commander, Task Force 72 and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 search and rescue teams. ***(USMC)***

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DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 501000 C.K. SAIPAN, MP 96950

Opening Date: October 01, 2014 **Closing Date:** October 10, 2014

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
FY' 2014 FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION & SERVICES ACT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for the FY 2015 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds as defined in section 306(a) of the FVPSF Act under Title III of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A total of $117,725.00 is made available to be divided and sub-granted to non-governmental agencies/non-profit community organizations (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary associations) in the CNMI upon satisfying the specific requirements/provisions of the said funding through the "Family Violence Prevention and Services Act".

The purpose of the FVPSA funding is to make grants available to States and Territories to assist in:

1. Efforts to provide immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents;
2. Efforts to increase public awareness about, and primary and secondary prevention of, family violence, domestic violence and dating violence;
3. Providing for a national domestic violence hotline;
4. Providing for technical assistance and training relating to family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence programs to States and Territories, local public agencies (including law enforcement agencies, courts, and legal, social service, and health care professionals in public agencies), nonprofit private organizations (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary associations), tribal organizations and other persons seeking such assistance and training.

A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub-grantee's responsibilities, and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS main office, House #1262 Isa Drive, Capitol Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Rita Castro at 664-2591 or Vivian Sablan at 664-2550.

/s/Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2014- 2016 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds defined in section 676A of the CSBG Act under title XX of the Unites States Department of Health and Human Services. Funds will be sub-granted to an agency/non- profit organization in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the CSBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CSBG funding is to make grants to State and Territories for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low- income communities and the empowerment of low- income families to become fully self- sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged.

All proposals must be submitted to the Division of Youth Services, Community Service Program Office no later than **October 10, 2014, 4:30 p.m.** A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub-grantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS/CSP Office in Capitol Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Jennifer Tanaka CSP Program Coordinator, Nina Nekaifes Assistant Program Coordinator at 664-2559 or Vivian T. Sablan DYS Administrator at 664-2550.

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary and CSBG Administrator
for Community Service Programs

Man allegedly ignored court order by repeatedly approaching ex-girlfriend

Police arrested a man who allegedly visited and approached his former girlfriend thrice despite a court order directing him not to have any direct or indirect contact with her.

Shaldon James Delos Reyes Kaainoa, 33, was arrested for violating an order of protection, contempt of court, and assault and battery.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $12,000 cash bail for Kaainoa.

Preliminary hearing will be on Oct. 6 at 9am.

Police detective Francisco Romeo O. Iginoef stated in his report that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued on June 18, 2014, an order of protection at the request of Kaainoa's former girlfriend.

In that order that will expire in June 2015, the judge barred the defendant from having direct or indirect contact with his former girlfriend/common-law wife.

On Sept. 19, 2014, the victim reported to police a violation of the order after she saw Kaainoa hiding in the bushes next to her house early that morning. The victim ran to her room on the second floor of the house. Kaainoa allegedly followed her up to the room and started knocking on the door and calling her name. After three to five minutes of knocking, the defendant left the house.

The next day, at 10:32am, the victim reported to police a second violation after Kaainoa suddenly appeared behind her on a bicycle while she was walking with their daughter near a store in Tanapag. The victim got scared and walked away from him. Kaainoa allegedly followed and asked what she will be doing for their daughter's birthday. She kept walking and did not talk to him.

On Friday at 9:56am, the victim reported another court order violation when Kaainoa allegedly appeared while she was walking toward Tanapag Beach with their daughter. She said she was pushing her daughter in a stroller when the child called out, "Daddy! Daddy!"

She saw Kaainoa approaching them. She advised him of the active court order. Kaainoa allegedly refused to leave and told her he wanted his family back. Kaainoa held her right hand firmly. She pushed him and walked away.

Police arrested the defendant that same morning after he was found riding a bicycle near his residence in Tanapag. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2014-005

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Rehabilitation Project in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, September 25, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM140001 for the Mariana Islands.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 3, 2014, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked NMHC IFB 2014-005. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, October 17, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, October 17, 2014 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Friday, October 17, 2014 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Friday, October 24, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, October 27, 2014. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, October 17, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Rehabilitation Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane
NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Close-Up youths deliver message to CNMI leaders

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government corruption, casinos, and other pressing issues were brought to the attention of legislators at the conclusion of the 2014 Close-Up Youth Summit at Saipan World Resort on Friday.

A student committee on law enforcement brought up government corruption, specifically House Bill 18-200, the proposed "Anti-Abuse of Authority Act of 2014" which would make it against the law for government employees to be convicted of a crime that their superior ordered them to do. They asked that the bill be amended so that the superior be removed from their position.

"The original bill says that the superior is just going to be charged or given jail term, but we want it to be amended so the superior can be removed from office," committee chair Lou Frances Pua said in an interview.

Vice speaker Francisco Dela Cruz called the bill "good legislation," noting previous instances of corruption in the CNMI by former governors and former department heads.

He said employees acting under orders of the superior in these cases were only "doing what they were told."

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) also took note of the students' proposed amendment.

"You're recommendation for me is very simple…and as a chairman of the Saipan Northern Island Legislative delegation, I am now directing Rep. [Roman] Benavente (Ind-Saipan) to look into this and change this right now," he said to the applause of the audience.

Before presenting their proposal, the all-female committee asked legislators to not to view them as "teenagers or kids but to see them as the future of the CNMI."

"They do know that it is happening and they were surprised that we brought it up, that we would know," she said.

The students also brought up the issue of a casino on Saipan, with Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) taking different stances in their responses.

"Why does the government still want to pass this [casino] plan?" one student asked, citing previous voter rejection of the plan.

Seman explained that the casino addresses "the now-needs" and the long-term development of the economy with immediate infusion of cash into the retirement fund and the building of much needed hotel rooms on island.

Dela Cruz said he believes "the casino was used to try satisfy the issues we are facing" but that the critical issue should be left to the people to decide.

"We want big investors to come to this island, but we want the right big investors," Billy Hinson told the *Saipan Tribune*.

Hinson said he expects the majority of the funds to generated by the casino to be "sucked out of the island" by the foreign investors.

Another student, Jose Trinidad, felt slighted by the exclusive casino deal pushed through by the Legislature.

"The last time I checked 'democracy' came from the Greek prefix 'demo' which means 'people.' When the Legislature ignored the voices of the people, that essentially cancelled the very definition of democracy, changing it from a democracy to an autocracy," he said.

Maria Dizon, who was at the summit for her second year, said the in-depth policy research, getting facts correct, and avoiding the influence of the media were the most difficult part of her experience.

"I think [politicians] should be more aware that we are more informed, and there are programs like Close-up that are really want us to be informed. They should really reach out to us and see what we think," she said.

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Honoring two decades of rising for peace

On Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, the Family Violence Task Force and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence will convene the 20th annual proclamation signing ceremony in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, or DVAM.

The entire community is invited to attend the ceremony that will take place at 9am at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and will feature the Bridge of Light Award, which honors one advocate for his/her work to end domestic violence in the CNMI.

For the past 20 years, the DVAM Committee, made up of service providers, first responders, and community volunteers, have created opportunities for the community to mourn those we have lost to domestic violence, celebrate the significant progress made by advocates over the years, and connect with one another with a true sense of unity to end domestic violence.

"This year's DVAM theme is *'Rise for Peace. Be that Change!'* The DVAM Committee chose this theme to highlight the hope that exists in our community," said DVAM Committee co-chair Angelyn Nimwes. "Together, we can create a CNMI where safety and love is the norm for all of us."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines, left, handing over their donation for the Bridge of Light Award, which will be given out this Thursday at the proclamation signing ceremony for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In the photo are, from left, Chris Concepcion, Delta; Eulalia S. Villagomez, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence board chair; Maisie B. Tenorio, coalition executive director; and Mernie Geisinger, Delta.

"We are inviting the community to join us—to stand up and speak out against domestic violence this October," said DVAM Committee co-chair John L. Aguon.

Upcoming DVAM activities include the "Walks Against Domestic Violence" in Kagman III (Oct. 8), Dandan (Oct. 15), and Tanapag (Oct. 29) every Wednesday at 5pm. In addition, the DVAM Committee will be hosting the "Day of Unity" on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014, from 1pm to 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Basin. The purpose of the event is to connect domestic violence survivors, their supporters, and advocates and will include the Men's Walk Against Domestic Violence, and the Candlelight Vigil.

"We would also like to encourage the community to show their support for survivors and victims of domestic violence by wearing purple every Friday during October," said Nimwes.

DVAM Committees on Tinian and Rota will also be hosting events. For more information on DVAM events or activities, email the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at info@endviolencenmi.org.

"Every year we are touched by the support from our community," said coalition board chair Eulalia S. Villagomez. "We are particularly grateful for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Delta Air Lines, who have sponsored the Bridge of Light Award this year."

Villagomez added "It means so much to our providers, responders, and advocates when we take a moment to show our gratitude for all the sacrifices they make to keep us safe and protected."

The DVAM Committee is encouraging the entire community to rise for peace and be catalysts for change. Community members throughout the CNMI can help to end domestic violence by creating spaces for victims and survivors to reach out and share their stories without fear of judgment. You can share your DVAM thoughts and stories with us by adding #dvam2014 to Twitter posts, or posting on the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's Facebook page. ***(NMCADSV)***

Sablan is new SRC chairperson

Members of the State Rehabilitation Council elected Pamela C. Sablan as their new chairperson during a joint meeting of the SRC and Statewide Independent Living Council on Sept. 26, 2014, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The following members were also elected to their respective offices: Dr. Sharon Hart, vice chairperson; Elizabeth Ada, secretary; and Diana Camacho, fiscal officer.

Another agenda item was the election of officers for the SILC. The new leadership for fiscal year 2015 is composed of Gernadine Camacho, chairperson; Emeterio Fitial, vice chairperson; Consolacion Atalig, secretary; Lydia Igitol, fiscal officer; and Estella Cabaobas, sergeant-at-arms.

Other actions by the councils included the approval of their new budgets and the adoption of the new SILC logo and vision statement ("The vision of the Council is inclusive, accessible communities that value differences."). Discussions about planned activities in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month also took place.

The overall purpose of the SRC is to review, analyze, and advise the governor and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation regarding its performance, particularly relating to: 1) eligibility, 2) the extent, scope and effectiveness of services provided; and 3) the functions performed by CNMI departments and agencies that affect or potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities in achieving employment outcomes.

As for the SILC, its mission is to serve individuals with significant disabilities in the CNMI and to promote their independence, productivity, and integration into society. The SILC supports the independent living philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and advocacy. ***(OVR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 3rd birthday to my *dudus* princess, Juliet Caridee Masga Kapileo! May the Lord bless you on this special day of yours and many more to come. Love, sister Mistue, Nina, and Nino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman health center gets $188.7K grant

The Kagman Community Health Center has once again received a $188,706 grant from the Affordable Care Act last week.

The center was opened in April 2013, with the help of ACA funds. About $608,333 was awarded to the center in June 2012 and it has been receiving additional grants that have proven helpful to the facility.

KCHC serves the communities of Kagman, San Vicente, Papago, Fina Sisu, Dan Dan, and As Terlaje.

According to KCHC executive director Vince Castro, they will be expanding some areas of the center with enough funding to provide more options and seek help for transportation.

KCHC and the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority signed an agreement in late June for COTA to provide transportation services to the center.

Meanwhile, pediatricians from the Commonwealth Health Center have started helping KCHC in providing check-ups for children.

KCHC said that the pediatricians will be in for most Wednesdays and Fridays and will be able to conduct child checks, Head Start, sick children visits, or any patients with chronic diseases.

For more information on KCHC services or for appointments, call 256-5242. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PSS execs on *John Gonzales LIVE*

The *John Gonzales LIVE* show will air live tomorrow, Oct. 1, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on TV Channel 14, with the topic, "House Legislative Initiative 18-12 to increase PSS guaranteed funding level to 25 percent."

Guests include Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., PSS Associate Commissioner for Instructions Jackie A. Quitugua, and Board of Education members.

To participate in the discussion OR advertise, please contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call: 287-9413; or text: 285-META (6382).

The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

The show will be replayed on Monday, Oct. 6, and Tuesday, Oct. 7, on Channel 14, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. ***(PR)***

MHS sets Q1 Mid-Progress Report Open House

Marianas High School is encouraging all parents and guardians to come to our 1st Quarter Mid-Progress Report Open House on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm at the MHS Gymnasium. This is a great opportunity to meet our teachers and talk about your child's progress in the class. Should you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. You can also check our website at www.marianashighschool.com. ***(PR)***

Family grief support meeting on Oct. 2

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821, or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its next general membership meeting tomorrow, Oct. 1, at 11:30am, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. Meeting will begin at noon. Guest speakers will be Andrew Bonney, SRVP Planning for Cape Air, and Jim Wolf, Sustainability Director. Bonney is flying out from Boston to address the membership. Luncheon cost for SCC members if $20; non-members pay $30. ***(SCC)***

Marines training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Marines will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 from 9am to noon. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and dates indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Navy awards $9M contract for naval magazine work

SANTA RITA, Guam—On Sept. 26, 2014, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded Guam Pacific International, Barrigada, Guam a $9-million multiple award construction contract for repairs on explosive magazines at Naval Magazine, Naval Base Guam. Work is expected to be completed by December 2015. NAVFAC Marianas, Guam, is the contracting activity (contract number N40192-10-D-2800).

The work to be performed provides for the repair of 18 high explosive magazines. Repairs are intended to restore the magazines to fully functional efficient status, requiring no further repair and minimal maintenance.

This contract was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities Online website with four proposals received. ***(USN)***

CNMI's PrepareAthon:

SAFETY SATURDAY

October 4, 2014

SATURDAY, 8 AM–2 PM

Garapan Fishing Base

Crisis Management Strike Team

Saipan RESIDENTS are invited to come together on October 4, 2014 from 8:00 AM—2:00 PM to take part and learn!

The rest of the United States also participates similarly in the Great ShakeOut! Participating is a great way for your family or organization to become better prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes.

Why is it important to come to the"Safety Saturday" event? You may only have seconds to react if a disaster strikes our island. Practicing helps you be ready to react.

We recommend that you, your school or organization, and our community review and update plans, supplies, and secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries.

EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE! Individuals, families, schools, government agencies, businesses and other organizations are invited to come, learn, and enjoy the festivities.

As a SAFETY SATURDAY participant you will:

- Learn what you can do to get prepared
- Self evaluate and validate evacuation plans
- Participate in trainings and demonstrations.
- Set an example that motivates others to participate

Who will be there?

Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in collaboration with CHCC, BECQ, CUC, and CPA will have the following events:

- **Flu Vaccination Shots**
- **MMR Shots**
- **AccuCheck Blood Sugar**
- **Blood Pressure Checks**
- **H.O.M.E. Visiting Program**
- **CERT Fire Extinguisher Demonstration**
- **K-9 Explosive/Drug Unit**
- **DPS Fire Demonstrations**
- **DPS Child Car Seat Demonstration**

⇒ **Come and Participate! Raffle Drawings will take place throughout the day! Register & Enter in a chance to win various prizes and giveaways!**

Get Prepared for Earthquakes & Tsunamis:

- **Create a personal disaster plan.**
- **Exercise your evacuation plan.**
- **Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits.**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Islamic State is a heinous force, but is the US military escalation justified?

In his address to the nation two weeks ago, President Barack Obama promised to use force against the armies of the Islamic State "wherever they are," and he specifically mentioned Syria. But Monday night's airstrikes in that country came sooner and with more force than expected, targeting not only the Islamic State but also the Khorasan Group, an al-Qaida offshoot thought to be plotting attacks on Americans.

This major offensive raises questions about whether the United States (and a few Arab allies) are planning a prolonged air campaign in a country whose leadership did not invite intervention. Coupled with his successful lobbying of Congress to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to train supposedly moderate Syrian rebels, the airstrikes mark a major reversal for Obama.

Until recently he has assiduously resisted American entanglement in Syria's civil war, and for good reason. The conflict pits President Bashar Assad, a secular dictator with innocent blood on his hands, against an assortment of opponents whose division into moderate and extremist factions isn't nearly so neat or stable as some advocates of U.S. intervention suppose.

Obama changed his mind about intervention in Syria for the same reason he decided to launch airstrikes in Iraq and augment the U.S. military presence in that country: a sickeningly swift sequence of events in which Islamic State fighters routed Iraqi forces, terrorized Christians and other minorities and seemed poised to attack Baghdad. Obama also was influenced, understandably, by the horrific beheadings of two American journalists.

The result was his promise of a long-term campaign to "degrade and ultimately destroy" Islamic State. Obama said that wouldn't require U.S. combat forces. But if the threat posed by Islamic State justifies a rethinking of Obama's aversion to intervention in Syria, might it not also incline him to change his view about "no boots on the ground"? Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said that if necessary he would recommend that U.S. military "advisors" accompany Iraqi troops into battle.

We find that prospect troubling. Islamic State is a heinous group, a threat to U.S. interests (though not, as far as we know, to the U.S. homeland) and a threat to the rights of those in the Middle East whom it despises as infidels. But is the threat serious enough to justify an ever-escalating role for the U.S. military in Syria and Iraq? Does the U.S. have a clear strategy and achievable aims? The case has yet to be made.

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When does discipline become child abuse?

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News*. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

I did not have a Dickensian childhood. I had more than enough to eat, unlike orphaned Oliver Twist. I had the love and attention that was denied to poor little David Copperfield. I was not forced to scavenge in graveyards, like Pip from "Great Expectations." All in all, it was much more "Brady Bunch" than "Bleak House."

But there were moments when either of the parental units—usually dad—would explain to my butt those things that my mind was unwilling or unable to process. This is a roundabout way of saying that I sometimes got slapped on my roundabout.

I lived to tell the tale of the thwacking on my tailbone. So did my siblings, who also had the occasional run-in with an open hand or hairbrush. Our crew yielded five relatively well-adjusted adults who, while we may not be paragons of virtue and accomplishment are also not appearing regularly on the FBI's Most Wanted list.

That's why I was a little taken aback by the uproar over what Adrian Peterson did to his son (or sons, if the news reports are accurate.) Actually, I wasn't really taken aback at all, just saddened. Yes, I felt bad for the little boy who is now known as "the kid whose superstar father beats him." I felt sad for his physical pain, which I'm thinking is a lot less than the embarrassment of having to go to school as the "kid whose superstar father beats him." I also felt bad for Adrian Peterson who has now become the child abuse equivalent of Ray Rice: Enemy Number "Next One."

The reason I feel bad for Peterson is that he grew up in one world, and is now living in another, and no one seems to have told him when there was a shift change. Like many of us who were born before SpongeBob became the go-to guy for babysitters, corporal punishment and child abuse were not necessarily synonymous. Not all child abuse involves physical contact, and not all physical contact constitutes child abuse. Unfortunately, in this day and age, we seem to be unwilling to grasp those nuanced differences, because we are so paranoid about always doing the right thing.

This has seeped into the way we look at the occasional, overwhelmingly benign instances of parental negligence or what I like to call the "oops factor." When I was a kid, leaving your child in the car on a hot day with the windows open while you ran into the Penn Fruit for some groceries (including Jubilee cupcakes for the progeny) was not a federal offense. Now, it is enough to get you profiled on Nancy Grace.

When I was a kid, yelling at your child in the middle of said Penn Fruit while she was playing Skee Ball with the oranges (this is just a hypothetical, mind you) was not only acceptable, it was applauded by the other adults within hearing range. Today, you will get stares, glares and pursed lips from the mothers who, if it were their child, would gently coax the disruptive urchin to "take a deep breath, relax, and think about how the nice grocery store employees feel about having to clean up the mess." These are children who will be in therapy well before those employees hit retirement age.

And when I was a kid, getting tapped on the derriere with a hairbrush or a spatula or a rolling pin or even a nozzle from the Hoover was considered justifiable retribution for being a smarta—, not grounds for a grand jury indictment.

I understand that the dangers to children are greater, now, than they were in the 1960s and 1970s when I was growing up. Either the predators and perils have numerically increased, or we are just more efficient at bringing them out into the light of day. Good for us for being vigilant, since the innocence of a child is the most fragile and precious commodity in society. (And yes, good for us for making the Catholic Church accountable for its complicity in some of the worse instances of crime.) But I think that this hyper-focus on the sex abuse scandals of the recent decades and the simultaneous increase in the idea that "everyone should get a trophy" has artificially inflated our sense that children should not be touched. Ever.

I'm here to say that while Adrian Peterson may have overstepped the bounds in hitting his child with a "switch" and drawing blood, his initial motivation was the same as the motivation of my parents, and generations of parents before them. They loved us very much, and didn't have the slightest intention of hurting us. To them, "abuse" was spelled "l-o-v-e" and they would have been shocked to be told otherwise.

Adrian Peterson and I, and maybe you, grew up in a time where there was a lot of gray in the interactions between man and woman, child and parent. Now, it seems, there's only black and white.

I'm glad I grew up when "oops" didn't lead to a mug shot

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Obama's straight talk at UN

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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At the United Nations General Assembly Wednesday, President Obama challenged world leaders to join together "to reject the cancer of violent extremism." I believe his speech will be remembered as one of the most important of his career.

His message was tough—without any of his trademark ambivalence. He urged Muslim leaders to unify against a new breed of terrorists such as the Islamic State, which can use modern technology to wreak worldwide havoc. He said the United States would "work with a broad coalition to dismantle this network of death" and was asking "the world to join in this effort."

"Collectively, we must take concrete steps to address the danger posed by religiously motivated fanatics," he added. My readers may question whether air strikes against the Islamic State in Syria are the best, or a sufficient, approach (I will examine this in my next column).

But here's why I think this speech was so important—and why Obama must keep his promise to stay engaged:

First, the president clearly spelled out how the Islamic State threat fits into the broader global picture, where world order seems to be collapsing as Russia invades Ukraine and Ebola spreads.

Each of these challenges, said Obama, is a symptom of the broader "failure of our international system to keep pace with an interconnected world." The old systems are cracking, and no new ones are at hand.

The United Nations (divided within and frozen by Russian and Chinese veto power) is paralyzed. Russia's invasion of Ukraine challenges the post-World War II assumption that countries would no longer seize land by force.

The Islamic State's conquest of territory that spans Syria and Iraq creates a lawless zone where terrorists cut off hostages' heads and train with impunity. So who will police it?

"A central question of our global age is whether we will solve our problems together," Obama rightly said, "or whether we descend into destructive rivalries of the past." On issue after issue, he added, "we cannot rely on a rule-book written for a different century."

Nowhere is that clearer than in the case of challenging jihadi terrorists such as the Islamic State, whose "nightmarish vision" divides the world "into adherents and infidels."

Which leads to Obama's second key point: It is time for Muslim communities "to explicitly reject the ideology of al-Qaida" the Islamic State. The president openly challenged Arab states to step up to the plate.

There should be no more tolerance of "so-called clerics" who preach sectarian hatred, he said, or educate children "to hate other people." This was a not very veiled reference to the education systems of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries that promote harsh variants of Islam that vilify other religions or other Muslims who don't embrace such ideas.

Obama said "it's time to end the hypocrisy" of Gulf countries that use their oil wealth to fund radical Islamists (even as they now assist America in bombing the Islamic State). That funding must end, along with allowing jihadis to cross into Syria from Turkey. (A unanimous Security Council resolution yesterday made it a crime for jihadis to travel to Syria, but that won't stop the flow.)

As Obama pointedly noted, while Christianity long ago endured centuries of vicious sectarian conflict, today it "is violence within Muslim communities that has become the source of so much human misery." What he didn't say is that without some accommodation between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran—which are fueling a proxy war between their coreligionists in the region—it will be very hard to quench the sectarian fires in Iraq and Syria.

"The only lasting solution to Syria's civil war is political," Obama said. He's correct, but no political solution can evolve while Iran (and Russia) back a regime in Syria that murders tens of thousands of Sunni civilians. Nor is one possible while the Gulf states let rich sheikhs fund radical Sunni militias who hate Syrian Alawites. That sectarian war gives the Islamic State its slogans and attracts thousands of foreign Muslim fighters.

Obama bluntly warned Arab Muslim leaders (and indirectly Iran) that their sectarian fight has birthed a jihadi monster that already threatens their homelands. He reminded the rest of the world that the new brand of terrorists, "more lethal and ideological" than the old breed, threatens countries worldwide: China has Muslim terrorists in its far west, while Russia faces them in the Caucasus and neighboring Central Asia; foreign jihadis who train in Syria will soon be returning to China and Russia as well as Turkey and Europe.

Unless the "international community" unites to thwart this threat, it will spread. Another hostage, this time a French tourist, was just beheaded by an Islamic extremist group in Algeria. Any nationality could be next.

Will Obama's "tough love" speech spark introspection in the Arab world? Will it encourage Russia and China to think more constructively about the Islamic State problem? Will the president's impressive show on the podium be matched with a long-term U.S. strategy?

All unclear. But what the president accomplished this week was to confront U.N. members with a real choice: If they don't work together to thwart the Islamic State, many will be attacked individually. If Obama can actually muster the global coalition he seeks to fight the Islamic State, that will be the most impressive foreign policy legacy he leaves after 2016.

Growing global 'religious' frenzy, and Americans' search for yesteryear

By ANN MCFEATTERS
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune. *Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON—True or false: A) The United States was founded on the principle of separation of church and state; B) Six out of 10 Americans want politicians with strong religious beliefs; C) Almost half the people want their churches to weigh in on political issues.

If you said "true" to all of the above, consider yourself well informed on cultural values in your country.

We want to eat our cookie and have it too. We're proud of our religious tolerance and our commandment that government stays out of religion, but, seemingly, we also seek political leaders who agree with and practice our personal beliefs. (But no snake handlers, please.)

Much of what passes for conventional wisdom today insists America is a secular nation and religious values are under assault, persecuted by the federal government.

But according to a massive new study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, that's not necessarily true. About 78.4 percent of Americans consider themselves Christian. Of those, 51 percent are Protestants. Catholics, 24 percent of the population, are increasingly dependent on immigrants to keep up their numbers.

The Pew survey, of 35,000 Americans 18 and over, found that 59 percent of Republicans and 42 percent of Democrats want their church more involved in politics. That works out to 49 percent of all Americans, up from 40 percent four years ago.

Folks, this desire for melding religion and politics is a slippery slope. Worldwide, it's really scary.

More foreign governments are being pushed by Islamic extremists to restrict individual liberties. While most of this has nothing to do with the true precepts of Islam, millions, particularly women, are suffering because of the perverted use of religion.

Thousands of educated women who once eschewed being covered head to toe, held jobs and walked freely down public streets without a male relative now cower fearfully behind closed doors. Modern women are being stoned to death for supposed "religious" transgressions. A 12-year-old Pakistani girl was nearly murdered for advocating that Muslim girls be educated.

U.S. state legislatures, increasingly controlled by politicians with strong religious views, are restricting women's reproductive rights and trying to legislate their version of morality. The Supreme Court ruled employers' religious beliefs can justify not paying for female employees' contraception through health insurance.

What in the world is going on?

Part of the global "religious" frenzy is desperation born of poor economic conditions and a yearning for a mystical past that seems far more stable and secure than it ever was.

The Census Bureau reports middle-class Americans are worse off financially than they were 15 years ago. Inflation-adjusted median household income in 2013 was up only $180 from 2012 – eight percent below 2007 and even further below the 1999 peak. Young people do not expect to live as well as their parents.

Part of the search for yesteryear is worldwide disaffection with political leaders. President Obama, who inspired global hope in 2008, widely is perceived as weak, lacking in judgment, clueless, overwhelmed by crises, exhausted and unable to communicate the optimism we pine for. We're depressed not to have a superhuman leading us.

Failing the impossible, with a collective sense of helplessness, billions around the world put their hope in a higher power.

But if 49 percent of Americans seek openly religious leaders, that means half the population does not want churches more involved in politics.

We are not people who give up. By nature, we're not negative, without hope and accepting of failure. We are resilient, optimistic and determined to succeed. And we want to help those who need a hand.

Technology is linear; history is cyclical. We don't need politicians forcing their personal religious views on everyone. We need public servants reminding us there is every reason to think better times are ahead—if we make them better. Have faith.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The blind man's party

I spend about 70 percent of my time in the Garapan area. Of that time, I spend another 70 percent in my house, and more specifically, my kitchen, my reading chair, and my bed. While in my kitchen, my reading chair, or my bed, I strive to avoid obscenely large utility bills by keeping the windows open and the air conditioning unit unplugged. My distaste for utility bills has also prevented the introduction of a television into my home life. This absence of visual distraction, combined with open windows, has imposed an unexpected and absorbing circumstance on my life: I spend 49 percent of my time here on Earth as a captive to the sounds of Garapan. This means that my auditory senses are often fully engaged, and my mind is free to fully process the noises of Saipan's busiest enclave. I am blind.

Now, the unsuspecting reader might assume that I'm subject to an unpleasant cacophony generated by automobile motors, socially inept dogs, and the gentle whispers of *Gangnam Style*. In reality, however, a more intriguing soundscape meanders through my house. Sometimes the neighbors break into song. Sometimes the birds do as well. Sometimes thunder mixes with thick raindrops and the consequences of a rented karaoke machine. On Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014, my ears were greeted by the familiar tune of political rhetoric, exploding through an overly-ambitious sound system. Coincidentally I tend to be blind to partisan politics and biased groupthink.

On Sunday, as hyperbole washed over my neighborhood in successive waves, I could not help but feel a little bit uneasy. I was a blind man listening to a mix-tape of excited speeches and popular radio anthems, yet try as I might I could garner no significance or meaning from the noise. That's all it was—noise. I understand that those individuals that contributed to the noise certainly hear music, but perhaps there is a large portion of our population that simply cannot find a melody in it. As November approaches there will be noise in growing abundance. What do these sounds contribute to the world? What do they offer during their passage through the windows of my house? Is there a more sincere and effective medium to distribute our politics with?

The reason I've asked the humble publishers of CNMI media to expose this roundabout rant is not to subject the reader to a personal ideology or half-baked solution. Rather, I propose a challenge to all those with a vested interest in local politics. Given that the recycled din of partisan politics won't make a difference to the blind, dare yourselves to reach this broader audience through the quiet demonstration of ideas and action.

Sometimes, late at night or early in the morning, I hear the subtle splash of a car tire rolling through a rain-filled pothole on my street. Imagine what support you'd inspire in a blind man if you cut down your roadside campaign sign and patched that pothole with it.

Clark Griswold
Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms. North winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

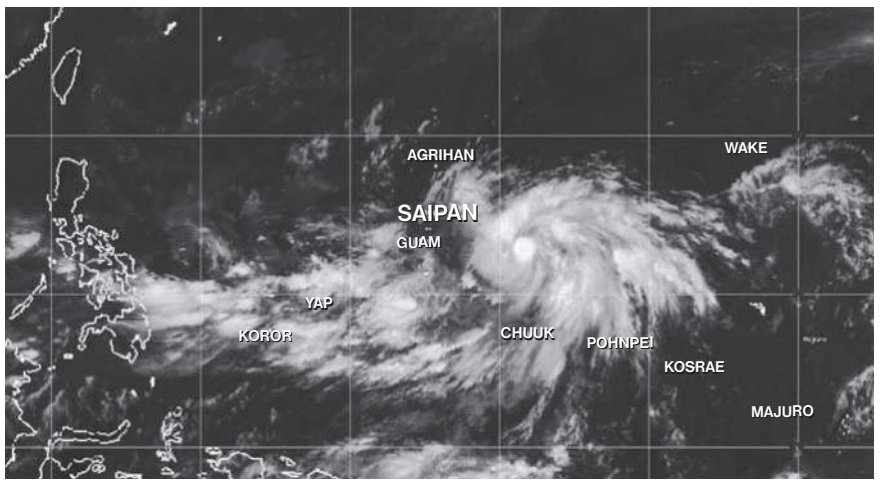
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Rain	▲57	▼49
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲87	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Osaka	Sunny	▲83	▼64
Paris	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
Salem	Showers	▲68	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Tokyo	Showers	▲72	▼64
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Strengthening Tropical Storm 18W was centered nearly 450 miles east-southeast of Saipan and was moving toward just north of due west at about 13 mph. Thunderstorms have become more organized near the center today with cloud top temperatures recently observed near -87 celsius. Fractured banding of scattered thunderstorms was observed along the northern and eastern flanks within 300 to 400 miles of the center. A monsoon trough extended from Tropical Storm 18W to just south of Guam then ran nearly due west to the Philippines to the south of the monsoon trough a broad 500 mile-wide area of convergent westerly flow was producing scattered thunderstorms between 12N and 05N west of 150E to the east of 150E. Isolated thunderstorms were found near Chuuk and Pohnpei on the southern fringe of convergent southwesterly low level flow to the south of Tropical Storm 18W. Scatterometer data showed a low level ridge extending from 25N152E to 23N144E where the ridge become disrupted by Tropical Storm Kammuri which was passing several hundred miles to the north. This surface ridge was producing easterly flow over the Marshall Islands where scattered cumulus clouds prevailed. The ITCZ was established just to the east and isolated thunderstorms were confined near 05N latitude east of 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
1:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:58 AM	10:41 PM
Wednesday	11:53 AM	11:36 PM
Thursday	12:48 PM	
Friday	1:41 PM	12:35 AM
Saturday	2:34 PM	1:34 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	4:00am	8:00am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via Guam
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via Guam
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via Guam
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	2, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:20am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:50am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:40pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:05pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:35pm	1,5 via Guam
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:20pm	1, 5 via Guam
DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:50pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:35pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:20pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:40am	2:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:35pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:20pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Island Snapshots

LAST APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, administers the oath of office Friday morning to Gilbert J. Birnbrich to serve as the CNMI's attorney general. Inos is the last CNMI governor to appoint an AG, as voters will now elect the attorney general starting on Nov.4. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HY MANHOBEN GROUP HELPS OUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Hofschneider/Yumul Manhoben took part in the 29th Annual BECQ International Coastal Cleanup by helping the community pick trash at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery Saturday, Sept. 27. The group of 20 people braved the heat collecting about 300 lbs of trash Saturday morning. The International Coastal Cleanup saw volunteers pick up trash Friday afternoon and Saturday morning throughout the island. The event is a part of the Let's Move Marianas Campaign.

CEMETERY CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two JROTC units—the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion and the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays Battalion—teamed up on Saturday, Sept. 27, to put a big dent on the Mt. Carmel Church Cemetery cleanup for the All Souls Day this November. A total of 110 JROTC cadets participated in this event to beautify the largest cemetery on Saipan. Two truckloads of trash were collected and the cleanup took almost four hours to complete.

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Precinct 1 House candidate Angel A. Demapan and his Committee-to-Elect spent their Saturday morning participating in this year's International Coastal Cleanup event by picking up trash in the vicinity of Pakpak Beach in San Antonio.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPL-158 (A-F)
Submission / Opening Date: October 17, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

"ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary of DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPW/FHWA-159 (A-C)
Submission / Opening Date: October 17, 2014 Time: 10:30 A.M

"PURCHASE OF SEVEN (7) DESKTOP COMPUTER UNITS AND FOUR (4) LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Amendment # 01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. has been postponed to **Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
IV. OLD BUSINESS
a. Mortgage Credit Division
i. HOME Policies and Procedures
V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/**MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Water Task Force to construct a waterline in the Lower Base area on the island of Saipan in the CNMI. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is a replacement of the existing waterline including replacement of valves, hydrants and other appurtenances. The project will be located along the public roadways in the Lower Base area between Chalan Pale Arnold Road and the ocean and from Industrial Drive at the south of the project area to Sisonyan Drive at the north. Project information is available for review at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill Saipan or phone 670-664-2274.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on October 31, 2014 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Marines control the 'Wild West of the Sky'

By LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

WEST FIELD, TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Dubbed as the "Wild West of the Sky" by some Forager Fury III Marines, the uncontrolled air space surrounding Tinian's West field exists because it is the home of a public airport without an air control tower.

An estimated 1,300 personnel are participating in Forager Fury III, a Marine Corps-led exercise involving a full spectrum of fixed wing and rotary aircraft operations. It has a heavy emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support to further develop expeditionary combat capabilities in the Marianas Island Range Complex. The exercise began Sept. 24, 2014, and is scheduled to last until Oct. 6.

Small airplanes are constantly using the runway on Tinian to bring passengers to Saipan and back with minimal guidance. Add that to the increased air traffic from Forager Fury III and you may expect a more white-knuckled environment.

To counter the potential danger, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force has erected a remote landing site tower manned by Marine air traffic controllers on West Field.

"We provide advisories to make sure everybody in the air and on the ground are on the same page," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Graves, Tinian's air boss during the exercises and air traffic controller with MACS-4.

The communication between people in the air and on the ground is vital to safety, according to Graves, from Melbourne, Florida.

"Safety is paramount and having the air traffic controllers at our side with communication helps us see all the moving parts—the aircraft, vehicles and people," said Gunnery Sgt. Charles Maddox, the expeditionary air fields staff noncommissioned officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAW, III MEF. "It helps control the chaos because they are our second pair of eyes."

U.S. MARINE CORPS /LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Cpl. Jared A. Simmons, from Spencer, Massachusetts, relays a message from a pilot to the ground troops on Sept. 24 during the Forager Fury III exercise on Tinian's West Field. The air traffic control tower controls both military and commercial flights in Tinian's air space and ensures their safety. Simmons is an air traffic controller with Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

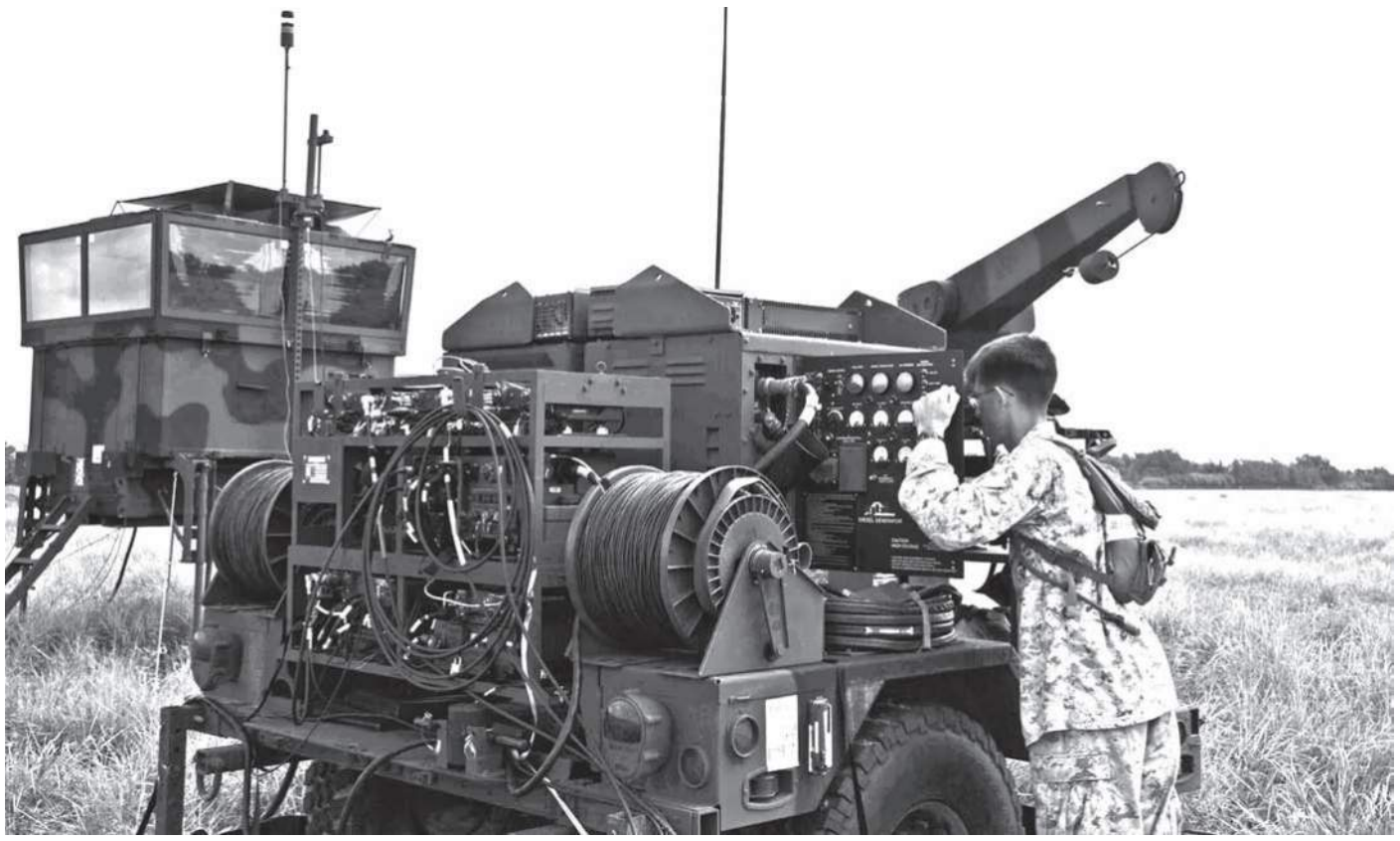
Marine air traffic controllers are able to facilitate the incoming and outgoing aircraft to ensure the safety of both the civilian and military flights.

"We are the first step for safety because we are the only ones in direct communication with the pilots," said Cpl. Eriberto Cura, an air traffic controller with MACS-4. "If we know what they are doing we can pass that information to those on the ground."

The Marines on the ground have the air traffic controllers giving them a wider view of what is inbound, and the communication results in a safer environment, according to Maddox, from West Palm Beach, Florida.

Many lives are in the hands of the air traffic controllers, according to Cura, from West Palm Beach. He said he is confident their training allows them to manage the skies by providing a medium between the air and the ground.

"The safety of aircraft and personnel is our main objective," said Cura. "As a controller, stress is something you are taught to handle no matter how much pressure you are under."



U.S. MARINE CORPS /LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Cpl. Michael D. Smith, from Thousand Oakes, California, checks on the generator and communicating gear for the remote landing site tower on Sept. 24 during the Forager Fury III exercise on Tinian's West Field. The remote landing site tower is highly deployable and can fit onto the back of a Humvee, according to Smith. Smith is with air traffic control maintenance, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Friendship in the sandlot

By LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN—"In the past years that Marines have been here, we have held softball games," said Pastor Jim Howard, the principal of Grace Christian Academy on Tinian and head coordinator of the event. "It has become a tradition to have the Marines come play; it's something the local residents look forward to."

As part of the game, participants split into two teams. The Marine team consisted of both service members and members of the local community and the opposing team consisted of only Tinian's residents.

With the game underway, the local team took a commanding lead, scoring 10 runs before the bottom of the first inning.

"It took me by surprise seeing them score so much, so fast," said Lance Cpl. Chandler Page, a maintenance management specialist, with MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We had a lot of different skill levels on the Marines' team, from people who play the sport often to some who are trying the sport for the first time."

The early lead by the opposing team did not discourage the Marines' team, and instead, put them in a mindset to defeat the opposing team who received a head start win, according to Page.

The local team's lead did not last. By the bottom of the 4th inning the score stood 12-11 in favor of the Marines.

"Every time we can get service members and the local youth together, it is a great thing for the community," said Keith Nabors, the coach for the local softball team. "We had a great outcome today and both teams did amazing, especially when the Marines closed the early score gap."

However, the Marines' rally was not enough to secure the victory as the game concluded with the final score of 17-13 in favor of the local team.

"There were no real losers today," said Lt. Col. James Whiteker, the commanding officer of the squadron. "Marines and the local populace came out here for one thing, to build bonds with each other and that is exactly what they accomplished."

Whiteker said he enjoyed being out and watching his Marines play, adding that he encourages service members to actively look for events like this to build strong ties with the community.

$269,000 OK'd for NMC renovations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Friday $269,172 in grant assistance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project program to completely renovate existing classroom and office buildings at the Northern Marianas College and provide a more conducive environment for learning.

"Infrastructure projects such as these are vital to supporting the students in Saipan's only public institution of higher learning," said Kia'aina. "The Northern Marianas College is currently housed in what used to be the Dr. Torres Hospital built over 50 years ago during the U.S. administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We are pleased to support education and youth in the CNMI through rehabilitation of their campus."

The Secretary of the Interior has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior through the Office of Insular Affairs. ***(OIA)***

Marines, USDA prevent brown tree snakes from arriving on Tinian

By LAURA PATTAWI
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ECHO FIELD, Tinian—U.S. Marines, along with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and other agencies, are working together to prevent the brown tree snake from making a permanent home on Tinian during Exercise Forager Fury III.

An estimated 1,300 personnel are participating in Forager Fury III, which is an exercise involving a full spectrum of fixed wing and rotary aircraft operations between Guam and Tinian. The exercise began Sept. 24 and is scheduled to last until Oct. 7.

The brown tree snake, an Australian native species, poses a looming threat to the wildlife on Tinian as its infestation has already impacted Guam's ecosystem. The USDA, Marines and Navy Facilities Engineering Command on Guam and Tinian are working together to ensure the same damage to Guam's wildlife doesn't happen on Tinian.

"When the snake first arrived in Guam in the late '40s and early '50s, it had no predators to stop its population growth," said Stephen Mosher, the brown tree snake program handler with the NAVFAC. "Within 35 years it has caused the disappearance of 10 of the 12 forest birds native to Guam."

Mosher said the snakes superseded most of the reptilian population and cause power outages by interacting with power lines in Guam.

"We don't want what happened in Guam to spread across the Marianas or the mainland of the U.S.," said Mosher. "That's why the Navy and the Department of Defense have a major commitment to inspect all cargo and aircraft during military exercises to ensure the island stays snake free."

During Forager Fury III all cargo and aircraft coming from and leaving Guam are visually inspected and searched with canines to prevent invasive species stowaways.

"We are working very closely with the USDA and NAVFAC to prevent the spread of the snakes," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Graves, an air traffic controller with Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the lead liaison for the Marines. "I contact them each day to ensure they have the proper flight schedules for all incoming flights as well as making sure they are at the flight line when any cargo or aircraft touches down."

Graves said since they are guests on the island it is only natural to take the proper precautions to keep the snake threat at bay while conducting their exercise.

The team has placed dozens of snake traps near all areas with landing aircraft and the harbor.

"We have the snake traps as a backup precaution," Antonio Castro, a snake and cage handler with the Division of Fish and Wildlife for Tinian and Saipan. "In order to be 100 percent efficient with our work we have to set up these traps. It's rare that we miss something but the possibility is always there. That's why we work so close with the Marines, to make sure the possibility of us or them missing a snake is nonexistent."

Castro said they have found no snakes since the beginning of exercises on Tinian. He attributes that to the continuing partnership of all the agencies. He said he is certain Tinian will continue to be brown tree snake free for the span of the exercise.

LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Stephen Mosher, checks a snake trap at West Field Sept. 24 during Exercise Forager Fury III. The snake traps are designed to trap any brown tree snakes that may have stowed away in aircraft or cargo departing from Guam. Mosher is the brown snake program handler with the Navy Facilities Engineering Command.

LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Antonio Castro, from Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, places a mouse inside a snake trap at West Field Sept. 24 during Exercise Forager Fury III. Castro is a snake and cage handler with the Division of Fish and Wildlife for Tinian and Saipan.

LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Shaun, a working dog from Tinian, inspects munition boxes at Tinian's Echo Field on Sept. 24, during Exercise Forager Fury III. As part of FF III all military aircraft and cargo is screened to prevent the spread of the brown tree snake on Tinian. Shaun is with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services' canine unit.

OIA report highlights age of PSS buildings

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that essentially it might be better to build a new school than to have constant renovations to their 60-year-old campus.

In an interview Friday with Rachel Fusco, CIP coordinator for PSS, she cited an Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms in June 2013 report by the U.S. Department of the Interior that affirms Barcinas' statement.

The report, under "Building Ages and Functional Obsolescence," provides a graph of the ages of the CNMI's public schools.

"Based on the years schools opened, the median age is about 40 years," reads part of the report.

The report noted that buildings are typically replaced or reconstructed at 40 to 50 years old.

"Regardless of maintenance program effectiveness, buildings life-cycles are finite," the report states.

Hopwood, on the graph, is third oldest, with William Reyes Elementary around 65 to 70 years of age the oldest.

Of the 19 schools in the chart, more than half are more than 40 years old.

Marianas High School, which is more than 40 years old according to the report, had an all-time high enrollment of 1,576 students in 2014, as reported on opening day.

In an earlier interview, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan noted high traffic in schools every day over a 10-month period as the cause of the constant need for maintenance and repair.

According to the Capital Improvement Projects office, a 2012 assessment of PSS totaled $11.3 million worth of deferred maintenance.

Deferred maintenance is a postponement measure for projects that are put on hold, repairs that are neglected, and preventative maintenance that is ignored, according to the CIP office.

OIA has advised the central government to set aside $1 million every year for five years to address federal CIP projects for issues raised in their report.

The Board of Education this year approved OIA's ABC initiative as their guideline to improve facilities, with electrical systems and fire alarms to be fixed with the first $1 million.

Marines control the 'Wild West of the Sky'

By LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

WEST FIELD, TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Dubbed as the "Wild West of the Sky" by some Forager Fury III Marines, the uncontrolled air space surrounding Tinian's West field exists because it is the home of a public airport without an air control tower.

An estimated 1,300 personnel are participating in Forager Fury III, a Marine Corps-led exercise involving a full spectrum of fixed wing and rotary aircraft operations. It has a heavy emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support to further develop expeditionary combat capabilities in the Marianas Island Range Complex. The exercise began Sept. 24, 2014, and is scheduled to last until Oct. 6.

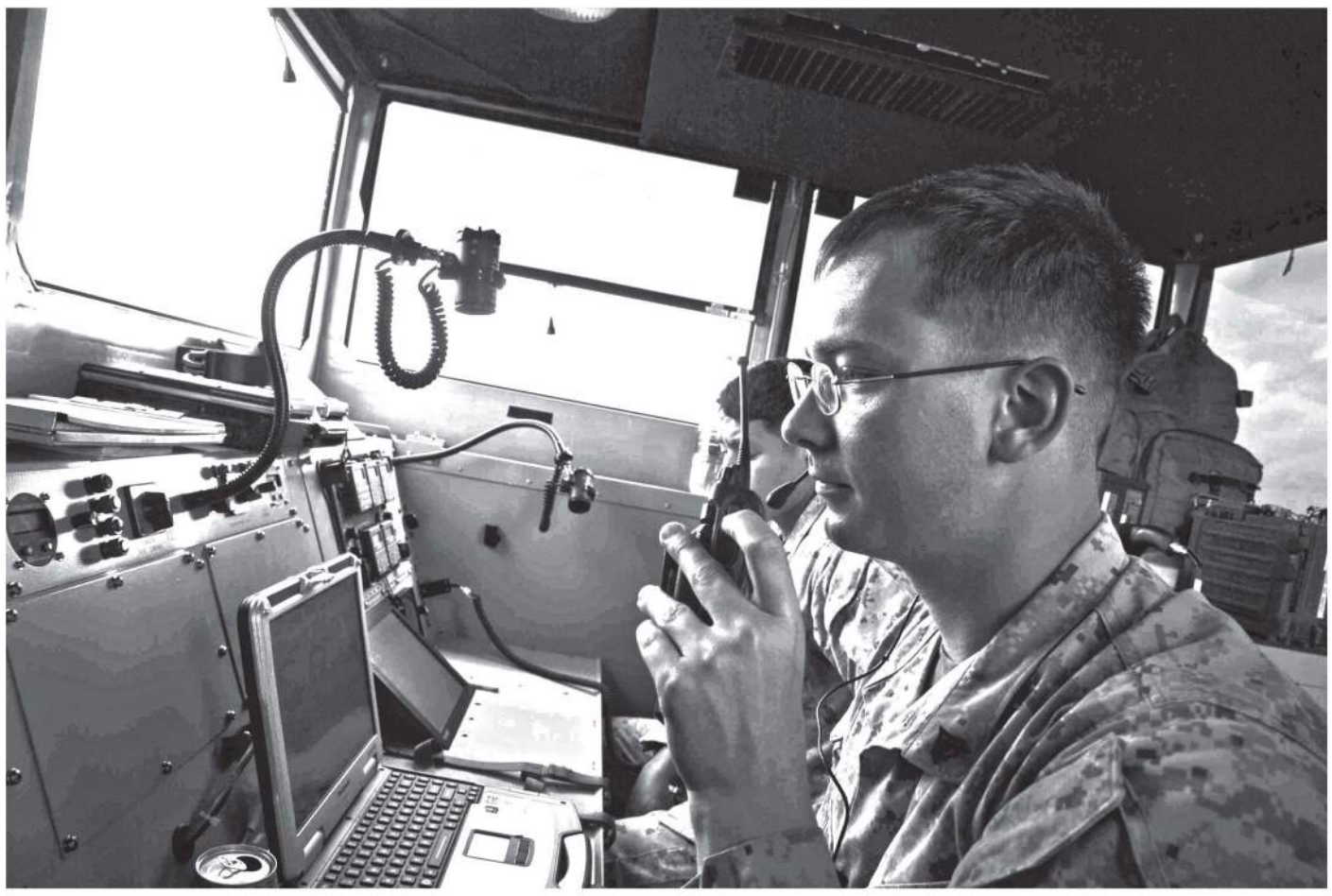
Small airplanes are constantly using the runway on Tinian to bring passengers to Saipan and back with minimal guidance. Add that to the increased air traffic from Forager Fury III and you may expect a more white-knuckled environment.

To counter the potential danger, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force has erected a remote landing site tower manned by Marine air traffic controllers on West Field.

"We provide advisories to make sure everybody in the air and on the ground are on the same page," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Graves, Tinian's air boss during the exercises and air traffic controller with MACS-4.

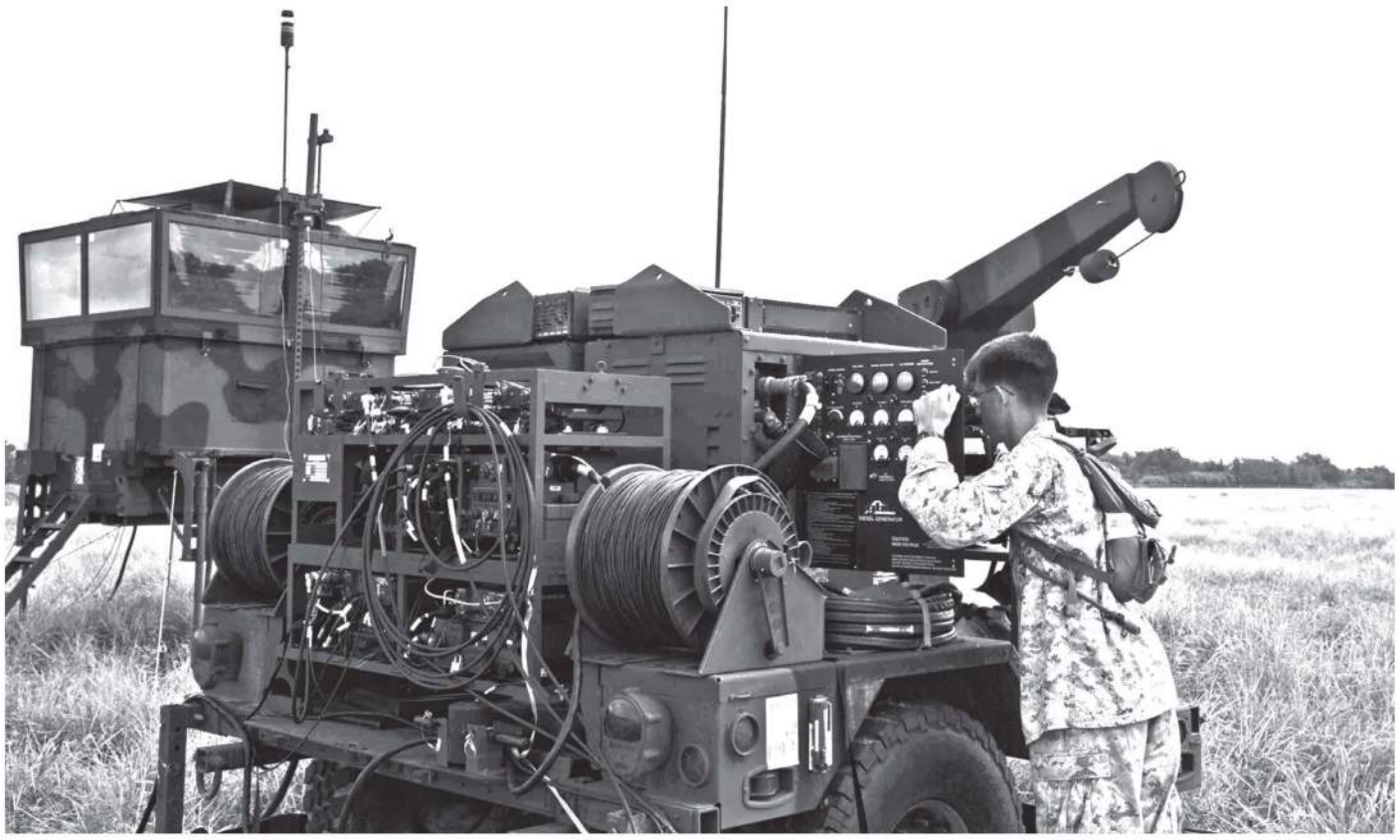
The communication between people in the air and on the ground is vital to safety, according to Graves, from Melbourne, Florida.

"Safety is paramount and having the air traffic controllers at our side with communication helps us see all the moving parts—the aircraft, vehicles and people," said Gunnery Sgt. Charles Maddox, the expeditionary air fields staff noncommissioned officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAW, III MEF. "It helps control the chaos because they are our second pair of eyes."



U.S. MARINE CORPS /LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Cpl. Jared A. Simmons, from Spencer, Massachusetts, relays a message from a pilot to the ground troops on Sept. 24 during the Forager Fury III exercise on Tinian's West Field. The air traffic control tower controls both military and commercial flights in Tinian's air space and ensures their safety. Simmons is an air traffic controller with Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



U.S. MARINE CORPS /LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Cpl. Michael D. Smith, from Thousand Oaks, California, checks on the generator and communicating gear for the remote landing site tower on Sept. 24 during the Forager Fury III exercise on Tinian's West Field. The remote landing site tower is highly deployable and can fit onto the back of a Humvee, according to Smith. Smith is with air traffic control maintenance, Marine Air Control Squadron 4, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marine air traffic controllers are able to facilitate the incoming and outgoing aircraft to ensure the safety of both the civilian and military flights.

"We are the first step for safety because we are the only ones in direct communication with the pilots," said Cpl. Eriberto Cura, an air traffic controller with MACS-4. "If we know what they are doing we can pass that information to those on the ground."

The Marines on the ground have the air traffic controllers giving them a wider view of what is inbound, and the communication results in a safer environment, according to Maddox, from West Palm Beach, Florida.

Many lives are in the hands of the air traffic controllers, according to Cura, from West Palm Beach. He said he is confident their training allows them to manage the skies by providing a medium between the air and the ground.

"The safety of aircraft and personnel is our main objective," said Cura. "As a controller, stress is something you are taught to handle no matter how much pressure you are under."

Friendship in the sandlot

By LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN—"In the past years that Marines have been here, we have held softball games," said Pastor Jim Howard, the principal of Grace Christian Academy on Tinian and head coordinator of the event. "It has become a tradition to have the Marines come play; it's something the local residents look forward to."

As part of the game, participants split into two teams. The Marine team consisted of both service members and members of the local community and the opposing team consisted of only Tinian's residents.

With the game underway, the local team took a commanding lead, scoring 10 runs before the bottom of the first inning.

"It took me by surprise seeing them score so much, so fast," said Lance Cpl. Chandler Page, a maintenance management specialist, with MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We had a lot of different skill levels on the Marines' team, from people who play the sport often to some who are trying the sport for the first time."

The early lead by the opposing team did not discourage the Marines' team, and instead, put them in a mindset to defeat the opposing team who received a head start win, according to Page.

The local team's lead did not last. By the bottom of the 4th inning the score stood 12-11 in favor of the Marines.

"Every time we can get service members and the local youth together, it is a great thing for the community," said Keith Nabors, the coach for the local softball team. "We had a great outcome today and both teams did amazing, especially when the Marines closed the early score gap."

However, the Marines' rally was not enough to secure the victory as the game concluded with the final score of 17-13 in favor of the local team.

"There were no real losers today," said Lt. Col. James Whiteker, the commanding officer of the squadron. "Marines and the local populace came out here for one thing, to build bonds with each other and that is exactly what they accomplished."

Whiteker said he enjoyed being out and watching his Marines play, adding that he encourages service members to actively look for events like this to build strong ties with the community.

$269,000 OK'd for NMC renovations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Friday $269,172 in grant assistance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project program to completely renovate existing classroom and office buildings at the Northern Marianas College and provide a more conducive environment for learning.

"Infrastructure projects such as these are vital to supporting the students in Saipan's only public institution of higher learning," said Kia'aina. "The Northern Marianas College is currently housed in what used to be the Dr. Torres Hospital built over 50 years ago during the U.S. administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. We are pleased to support education and youth in the CNMI through rehabilitation of their campus."

The Secretary of the Interior has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior through the Office of Insular Affairs. ***(OIA)***

Business

Air France pilots union ends strike

PARIS (AP)—Despite no deal in sight, Air France' s main pilots union on Sunday unilaterally ended a 14-day strike that grounded roughly half of the airline's flights, stranded passengers worldwide, cost tens of millions of dollars and led France's prime minister to decry a "selfish" walkout.

After a late-night, 15-hour negotiating session with management, leaders of the SNPL pilot union walked away with no accord, but with the realization that the strike "is not an end in itself," union spokesman Antoine Amar said. In a later statement, the union said it was ending the strike "in the interests of the company and passengers."

The walkout, which began Sept. 15, was the longest in more than four decades initiated by pilots at Air France, union official Guillaume Schmid said. The 81-year-old company today conducts about 1,500 flights each day, and last year had 77.3 million passengers, making it one of Europe's biggest carriers.

Air France, in its own statement, said service would "progressively" start returning to normal on Tuesday—meaning that flights already canceled between now and then won't be reinstated. The company hailed the end of the strike, saying it "will have been costly and damaging. It has only lasted too long."

Alexandre de Juniac, chairman and CEO of parent company Air France-KLM, said management team members "are aware of the trauma that our customers, employees and partners just lived through," according to the statement. It said full service was likely to resume late this week.

At the center of the standoff are Air France's ambitions to develop a low-cost affiliate, Transavia, to tap into new markets in both France and elsewhere in Europe and better compete at a time when budget airlines have cut into the market share once dominated by giant European carriers like Air France.

China busts smugglers of iPhone 6 in Shanghai

BEIJING (AP)—China in recent days has busted a slew of smugglers bringing Apple iPhone 6 models into the country ahead of their official release here, with officials on Sunday reporting the latest seizure of 453 smartphones in Shanghai.

Hundreds more were seized during three separate busts Thursday through Saturday in Hong Kong, including from men with a speedboat who were loading contraband onto a wooden sampan-style boat in a mangrove, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The latest seizure was from the luggage of two passengers arriving at the Shanghai airport from Tokyo, one of them Chinese and one of them Japanese, a woman at the Shanghai customs agency said, confirming state media reports. She said hundreds more have been confiscated individually from passengers who did not declare them.

Apple delayed its original plans to introduce the iPhone 6 in China this month, but did not comment on reports that it still hadn't received Chinese regulatory approval. The already-thriving black market for the phones in China, where Apple competes with less-expensive alternatives from local powerhouse Xiaomi, plus Lenovo and Samsung, has drawn a rebuke in Chinese state media.

Go to management with concerns about 'obsessive' co-worker

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: One of my co-workers makes me very nervous. I was hired four years ago after "Dennis" convinced management that he needed additional help. Dennis has worked here for 18 years and is responsible for tracking complex projects.

From the beginning, people warned me that Dennis was obsessive, withdrawn, and hard to communicate with. Nevertheless, we worked well together for three years. He helped me learn the job, and I was patient with his communication issues. However, the problems began when our boss decided to expand my responsibilities.

After learning I would no longer be assisting him, Dennis became angry and passive-aggressive. He refuses to share project information I need to do my job. When I pass him in the hall, he usually ignores me. But if he says good morning and I fail to respond, he will turn around and follow me, yelling "good morning" over and over.

Whenever Dennis leaves the building, he goes out of his way to pass through my area, even though the exit is in the opposite direction. He always peers into my cubicle to see what I'm doing. Because I feel like I'm being stalked, I have begun taking videos of him.

I try to avoid Dennis as much as possible and only communicate with him through email. He complains about this, but being around him scares me. I'm afraid to go to my boss or human resources because I'm terrified of how Dennis might react. I love my job and don't want to leave, so what should I do?

A: There's a big difference between a difficult person and a dangerous one. Unfortunately, based on this description alone, it's not easy to categorize your intimidating coworker. Dennis may just be an immature chap who doesn't know how to control his emotions. On the other hand, your intuition could be picking up subtle clues to something more sinister.

Either way, you need to share these concerns with a helpful person in management. If this is simply a childish reaction to losing an assistant, then someone should help Dennis adjust. But if he has developed an unhealthy or harmful obsession, then you must protect yourself by giving this information to the proper people.

Q: After applying for a job with another company, I learned through LinkedIn that two former colleagues are already working there. If these people find out that I'm interviewing, I'm afraid they will tell someone at my current employer. Since I don't want my boss to know I might be leaving, how should I handle this situation?

A: Simply explain your concerns to everyone involved in the interview process and ask them to keep your application confidential. It is generally understood that job applicants prefer not to advertise their potential departure, so this will seem perfectly reasonable.

Should you happen to encounter a familiar face, just make the same request. If you can't do so on the spot, send a message through LinkedIn later in the day. And if you have a positive history with these folks, perhaps they will put in a good word with the hiring manager.

Nation

Ferguson officer shot; police say no protest link

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)—Authorities searched Sunday for a suspect in the shooting of a police officer in Ferguson, the St. Louis suburb where there have been angry protests since a white officer fatally shot an unarmed 18-year-old black man last month.

AP

Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers stand posted at the corner of Chambers Road and West Florissant Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo., as police search for a suspect in the shooting of a Ferguson police officer.

Although there were two protests about the Aug. 9 shooting of Michael Brown happening when the officer was shot Saturday night, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said at a news conference early Sunday that he didn't think they were related to the wounding of the officer.

St. Louis County Police Sgt. Brian Schellman, a police spokesman, said in an email that only one suspect was involved in the shooting, not two as earlier reported.

The suspect was standing outside a closed community center when the officer approached Saturday night. The suspect fled and the officer gave chase. That's when the man turned and shot him in the arm, police said.

Belmar said the officer returned fire, but that police have no indication that anyone else was shot.

The officer was treated and released from a hospital, Schellman said.

California adopts 'yes means yes' sex-assault rule

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Jerry Brown announced Sunday that he has signed a bill that makes California the first in the nation to define when "yes means yes" and adopt requirements for colleges to follow when investigating sexual assault reports.

State lawmakers last month approved SB967 by Sen. Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, as states and universities across the U.S. are under pressure to change how they handle rape allegations. Campus sexual assault victims and women's advocacy groups delivered petitions to Brown's office on Sept. 16 urging him to sign the bill.

De Leon has said the legislation will begin a paradigm shift in how college campuses in California prevent and investigate sexual assaults. Rather than using the refrain "no means no," the definition of consent under the bill requires "an affirmative, conscious and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity."

"With one in five women on college campuses experiencing sexual assault, it is high time the conversation regarding sexual assault be shifted to one of prevention, justice, and healing," de Leon said in lobbying Brown for his signature.

The legislation says silence or lack of resistance does not constitute consent. Under the bill, someone who is drunk, drugged, unconscious or asleep cannot grant consent.

Lawmakers say consent can be nonverbal, and universities with similar policies have outlined examples as a nod of the head or moving in closer to the person.

Advocates for victims of sexual assault supported the change as one that will provide consistency across campuses and challenge the notion that victims must have resisted assault to have valid complaints.

The bill requires training for faculty reviewing complaints so that victims are not asked inappropriate questions when filing complaints. The bill also requires access to counseling, health care services and other resources.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storms drench parts of Arizona, Nevada

PHOENIX (AP)—Residents of the Phoenix area were greeted Sunday morning by toppled trees and debris-littered streets. Powerful thunderstorms brought heavy rain and strong winds to the region Saturday—flooding roads, delaying flights and leaving thousands without power. The Salt River Project utility says 800 people are still without electricity—down from 51,000. The Arizona Public Service says 7,000 customers were without power, but progress was expected in the next few hours. No injuries have been reported, but authorities conducted two water rescues Saturday involving stranded hikers. The National Weather Service says Phoenix received a record 1.6 inches of rain with some spots getting more than 2 inches.

Police: 15 hurt in Miami nightclub shooting

MIAMI (AP)—A shooting sent terrified patrons scrambling from a Miami nightclub early Sunday and left 15 people wounded, including an 11-year-old child, authorities said. When Miami police and rescue crews arrived at a club called The Spot around 1 a.m., they said they found chaos among the large throng of adults and teenagers gathered there. Rescuers found wounded people inside and outside the club, some too hurt to flee, Miami Fire Rescue Capt. Ignatius Carroll said. He told The Associated Press that the first emergency crews arriving on the scene were warned to use caution "because there was still active shooting taking place in the area."

No sign truck driver tried to avoid crash with bus

A tractor-trailer that collided with a bus and killed four members of a Texas community college women's softball team drove straight through an interstate median without any signs of braking or trying to avoid the collision, federal investigators said Sunday. The truck was traveling northbound on Interstate 35 near Davis, Oklahoma, on Friday night. As the roadway gently curved to the right, the truck continued straight. It traveled about 820 feet through the median and struck the southbound bus carrying 15 members of the North Central Texas College team and driven by their coach, said Robert Sumwalt, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board. Even after smashing into the driver side of the bus, the truck continued straight for another 300 feet, crossing the southbound lanes and barreling through and uprooting trees, Sumwalt said. ***(AP)***

Asia

Pro-democracy protests expand in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—Pro-democracy protests expanded in Hong Kong on Monday, a day after demonstrators upset over Beijing's decision to limit political reforms defied onslaughts of tear gas and appeals from Hong Kong's top leader to go home.

And with rumors swirling, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying reassured the public that speculation that the Chinese army might intervene was untrue.

"I hope the public will keep calm. Don't be misled by the rumors. Police will strive to maintain social order, including ensuring smooth traffic and ensuring the public safety," said the Beijing-backed Leung, who is deeply unpopular. He added, "When they carry out their duties, they will use their maximum discretion."

At dawn Monday, police officers tried to negotiate with protesters camped out on a normally busy highway near government headquarters that was the scene of the tear gas-fueled clashes that erupted the evening before.

AP

Protesters gather at a main road in the financial central district after riot police use tear gas against them after thousands of people blocked the road in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

An officer with a bullhorn tried to get them to clear the way for the commuters that would soon be streaming into work. A protester, using the group's own speaker system, responded by saying that they wanted Leung and his cabinet to "do something good for Hong Kong. We want real democracy."

Protesters also occupied streets in other parts of Hong Kong Island, including the upscale shopping area of Causeway Bay, the Wan Chai nightlife district as well as across the harbor in densely populated Mong Kok on the Kowloon peninsula. The city's transport department said roads in those areas were closed.

Recovery of bodies underway at Japanese volcano

KISO, Japan (AP)—Military and other rescue workers began airlifting more than two dozen bodies from the ash-blanketed peak of a Japanese volcano on Monday morning, as family members of the missing waited at a nearby elementary school.

At least 31 people are believed to have died. Four victims were flown down Sunday, and rescuers returned to 3,067-meter (10,062-foot) Mt. Ontake on Monday morning to recover the remaining 27. Exactly how they died remains unclear, whether from toxic gases, suffocating ash, falling rocks or other causes.

Scenes broadcast live on Japanese TV station TBS showed soldiers carrying yellow body bags one-by-one to a camouflage military helicopter that had landed in a relatively wide-open area of the now bleak landscape, its rotors still spinning.

The first bodies were flown to a nearby athletic field, its green grass and surrounding forested hills contrasting with Mt. Ontake's ash-gray peak in the background, a reduced plume still emerging from its crater.

There, they were transferred to white police vans, while two dozen officers struggled to hold up long blue tarps under the spinning rotors, blocking the view from the media.

The four brought down Sunday have been confirmed dead, said Takehiko Furukoshi, a Nagano prefecture crisis-management official.

The 27 others are listed as having heart and lung failure, the customary way for Japanese authorities to describe a body until police doctors can examine it.

Saturday's eruption was the first fatal one in modern times at Mount Ontake, a popular climbing destination 210 kilometers (130 miles) west of Tokyo on the main Japanese island of Honshu. A similar eruption occurred in 1979, but no one died.

ASIAN BRIEFS

In Pakistan, bomb kills 8 as US drone kills 4

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb blast killed eight people Sunday in northwestern Pakistan as a U.S. drone strike nearby killed four suspected militants, officials said. The bombing struck a refugee camp housing internally displaced people on the outskirts of the city of Hangu, police officer Anwar Saeed Kundi said. The people there were displaced from a conflict in the nearby tribal region of Orakzai, he said. He said the bomb was rigged to a motorcycle and killed eight people, including three children. It wounded 17 people, he said. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast. Kundi said it was not clear as to why anyone would target the camp.

2 men get death for killing imam in China's west

BEIJING (AP)—Two men have been sentenced to death and another to life imprisonment for killing a pro-government Muslim cleric in China's far-western city of Kashgar, state media said Monday. A court in Kashgar on Sunday convicted Gheni Hasan and Nurmemet Abidilimit of organizing and leading a terrorist group as well as intentional homicide, and sentenced them to death, the government-run news portal Tianshan Net said. The third man, Atawulla Tursun, was convicted of participating in the terror group and sentenced to life in prison, Tianshan said. Nearly 400 people have been killed in the violence in the past year and a half.

Japan, NKorea meet in Chinese city over abduction

SHENYANG, China (AP)—Negotiators from North Korea and Japan are meeting in a northeastern Chinese city for talks on the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents. The meeting between Japan's Junichi Ihara and North Korea's Song Il-ho in Shenyang is expected to last only one day. Japan is expected to pressure the North Korean delegation to produce a preliminary report. In 2002, North Korea acknowledged that its agents had kidnapped 13 Japanese, mainly to train spies in Japanese language and culture. It allowed five of them to return to Japan that year but said the others had died. Japan has officially recognized 17 such cases but believes hundreds more people may have been abducted and that many of them may still be alive.

World

Al-Qaida leader warns of revenge

BEIRUT (AP)—The leader of al-Qaida's Syria affiliate vowed Sunday that his group would "use all possible means" to fight back against airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition and warned that the conflict would reach Western countries joining the alliance.

The U.S. views the affiliate, known as the Nusra Front, as a terrorist group, but Syrian rebels have long seen it as a potent ally against both the Islamic State extremist group -- which is the main target of the coalition -- and Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

Syrian rebels, activists and analysts have warned that targeting the Nusra Front will inject more chaos into the Syrian conflict and indirectly help Assad by striking one of his main adversaries. The U.S. insists it wants Assad to step down, but is not targeting his forces, which are best placed to benefit from the airstrikes.

In a 25-minute audio recording, Nusra Front leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani portrayed the U.S.-led coalition as a "Crusader alliance" against Sunni Muslims and vowed to fight back.

"We will use all that we have to defend the people of Syria...from the Crusader alliance," al-Golani said. "And we will use all possible means to achieve this end," he said, without offering more details.

He went on to warn Western countries against taking part in the alliance in words that echoed those of the late founder of al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden.

"This is what will cause the battle to be transported to the hearts of your own homes; because Muslims will not stand idly by and watch Muslims be bombed and killed in their countries, while you are safe on your countries. The price of war will not be paid by your leaders alone. You will pay the biggest price," he said.

The recording appeared genuine and corresponded with Associated Press reporting.

The United States and five Arab allies launched an air campaign against Islamic State fighters in Syria on Tuesday with the aim of ultimately crushing the extremist group, which has created a proto-state spanning the Syria-Iraq border. The U.S. has been carrying out airstrikes against the group in neighboring Iraq since August.

Some of the initial strikes targeted the Nusra Front, hitting several of its facilities and killing dozens of its fighters. Washington said it was trying to take out an al-Qaida cell known as the Khorasan Group that was actively plotting attacks against Americans and Western interests.

Ebola clinics fill up as Liberia awaits aid

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—Doctors are in short supply. So are beds for patients. Six months after the Ebola outbreak emerged for the first time in an unprepared West Africa and eventually became the worst-ever outbreak, the gap between what has been sent by other countries and private groups and what is needed is huge.

Even as countries try to marshal more resources, those needs threaten to become much greater, and possibly even insurmountable.

Fourteen-year-old D.J. Mulbah was taken by his mother and grandmother on Saturday in desperate pursuit of a coveted bed at the Ebola clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in Monrovia, Liberia's capital. Too weak to stand, he was put into a taxi with his backpack and a bucket for vomit. Now he lay on the dirt beside the worried women.

"He's been sick for a week with a runny stomach," said his mother, wiping the sweat off the boy's brow with her bare hands. "We tried calling an ambulance days ago but nobody ever came."

Beds are filling up as fast as clinics can be built. Ambulance sirens blare through standstill traffic. Often there is nowhere to take the sick except to "holding centers" where they await a bed at an Ebola treatment facility.

By 8 a.m. a dozen people who likely have Ebola are crouching and sitting on the ground outside the padlocked metal gates of a facility with a capacity of 160 patients. Soon a triage nurse approaches, her voice muffled through a surgical mask covered by a plastic face shield. The clinic will take the boy. D.J. manages a faint smile. Seven of the 30 beds made available Saturday morning were vacated by survivors. The rest had died.

Statistics reviewed by The Associated Press and interviews with experts and those on the scene of one of the worst health disasters in modern history show how great the needs are and how little the world has done in response. Some foreign medical workers have bravely fought on, a few even contracting Ebola themselves as they cared for patients. Experts warn that the window of opportunity to snuff out the dreaded disease may close unless promises of additional assistance immediately become reality.

Gaza war deals blow to Israel's tourism industry

JERUSALEM (AP)—It was supposed to be a record-breaking year for tourist visits to Israel. But all that changed when the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas prompted jittery travelers to cancel trips en masse, leaving empty hotel rooms and barren tourist sites in their wake.

The summertime fighting delivered a serious hit to Israel's thriving tourism industry, causing losses of hundreds of millions of dollars and sparking concern that aftershocks may continue well after the war.

"Our challenge is how to prevent more cancelations. Despite a month having passed since the war, there is still an image among tourists that it is not safe to travel here," said Oded Grofman of the Israel Incoming Tour Operators Association.

Israel's war against Hamas came at the beginning of the peak tourist season, which includes July and August and runs through the Jewish High Holiday season and early winter.

Israel launched the war July 8 in response to rocket fire from the Gaza Strip and to destroy a network of tunnels used to attack Israelis. More than 2,100 Palestinians and 72 people on the Israeli side were killed. Israel and Hamas signed a cease-fire on Aug. 26.

None of the casualties on the Israeli side occurred in the country's tourist hubs of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, which endured rocket attacks but were largely protected by the Iron Dome missile defense system. Still, gruesome images of the war beamed around the world scared tourists away. One rocket that landed near Israel's international airport spurred American and European airlines to suspend flights for 48 hours, sending a chill through the local tourism industry.

Before the war, the country hoped for a record-breaking year for tourist visitors. Since the second Palestinian uprising subsided nearly a decade ago, Israel has enjoyed a tourism boom, with as many as 3.6 million foreign visitors to the country last year. Tourism is now an estimated $5 billion industry and provides more than 110,000 jobs in Israel.

Overdrive

2014 Beetle TDI combines old Bug charm with modern diesel power

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Fill my new Beetle with a bunch of glazed old hippies in faded work shirts and peasant dresses.

We can even slap a peace sign and outrageously optimistic "McGovern in '72" sticker on the back, and slide some Youngbloods into the 8-track—er, CD player.

Once we get to Austin—windows down, hair flying—we'll cut classes and sit in the park all day to, uh, contemplate the universe, just like 40 years ago.

Of course, we'll probably get mistaken for an oddly dressed seniors bridge club on a weekly outing—or worse, rebels from the retirement home.

But, hey, that won't detract from the iconoclastic appeal of the 2014 Volkswagen Beetle TDI, a car that looks like a finely aged version of its '70s self—with a new green twist.

As I hazily recall, noisy old VW Bugs always seemed slightly self-righteous. They were anti-Cadillacs that smilingly posed one-finger salutes to Wall Street and corporate America.

Think of the Beetle TDI as a sort of people's alternative to strait-laced, media-darling green-mobiles such as the Toyota Prius and Nissan Leaf—cars packing all the sizzle of a Young Republicans convention.

The lively Beetle TDI can get 40 miles per gallon thanks to its 2-liter diesel engine. And it still looks like the sort of counter-culture VW that might have something intriguing rattling around in the glove compartment.

Best of all, this genuine alt-fuel clean-diesel sedan drives German enough to have a slight accent.

The white Beetle I had recently marks a return to the basic shape of the original VW Bug, still Volkswagen's most enduring car.

While considerably larger and heavier than the original—weighing in at more than 3,100 pounds—it nicely replicates the old car's distinctive egg and clamshell lines.

Granted, nothing else got carried over. Based on a modern VW Golf platform, the new Beetle is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive vehicle with contemporary electronics and a modern strut suspension.

But its familiar rounded hood—instantly recognizable as a V-Dub—still rises gracefully from the bumper to a raked-back windshield and strongly curved roof.

Large oval headlamps vaguely mimic the peepers on my old Bugs, and the car's longish doors added heft to its appropriately flat sides.

Just like in the days of Tricky Dick, great clamshell fenders clung to the sides and big taillamps playfully evoked lumpy old VW lights.

Although mine rolled on 10-spoke alloy wheels wrapped in 215/55-17 tires, you can order wheels and hubcaps that look a lot like those on a '70s Beetle.

NUTS & BOLTS

Type of vehicle: Four-passenger, front-wheel-drive coupe
Price as tested: $25,415
Fuel economy: 28 miles per gallon city, 41 highway
Weight: 3,157 pounds
Engine: 2-liter turbocharged four-cylinder diesel with 140 horsepower and 236 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: Six-speed manual
Performance: 0 to 60 mph in about 8.5 seconds

Sources: Volkswagen of America; Car and Driver; Edmunds.com

UNDER THE HOOD

While the style grabs your eye, the refined four-cylinder diesel beneath the hood is really what makes the Beetle kind of special—a proletariat green-mobile of sorts.

The 140-horsepower clean-diesel starts with a light clatter that fades when warm to a muted growl. Even in a parking garage with the windows down, I could not hear diesel clatter in the car I had.

Mine sported a rare six-speed manual stirred by a long-throw shifter and complemented by a light clutch with good bite.

While generating modest horsepower, the little diesel twisted out 236 pound-feet of torque at a low 1,750 rpm.

Oddly, the engine felt a bit soft right off idle but got into its fat torque curve pretty quickly.

Rowing through the gears and feeling that great diesel torque push me into the seat, I thought the car seemed quicker to 60 mph than some of the stopwatches have it—an estimated 8.5 seconds. (I would have guessed high 7s.)

But that is still considerably faster than most hybrids, with a vastly higher smiles-per-gallon factor.

At 70 mph, the Beetle TDI is turning less than 2,000 rpm and more than willing to cruise at 80-plus.

If you need to pass quickly at speed, though, you will have to supplement that torque with some horsepower, often requiring a downshift.

Nonetheless, I prefer the diesel to any of Volkswagen's non-turbo economy engines, which I suppose makes me a European sophisticate of sorts who drinks domestic beer in a can and loves Merle Haggard. (How-dee, Heinrich.)

Diesels, as you probably know, are much bigger with the Euros than hybrids.

As a bonus for heathen non-greenies like me who just want to savor the Beetle's meaty torque, the car is rated at 28 miles per gallon in town and 41 mpg on the highway.

Like lots of Volkswagens, the Beetle steers pretty lightly, with quick reaction to inputs and fairly good road feel.

It's certainly no GTI. But in typical European-car fashion, the Beetle turned into corners with some aggression and manageable body lean.

Though limited by its mainstream all-weather tires, the free-spirit Beetle seemed to like being flung around.

I looked forward to driving it—a statement I have never made about any low-end hybrid. Ever.

THE INSIDE STORY

At $25,415, the Beetle was competitive price-wise with other alternative-fuel cars and offered a black interior that felt somewhat upscale—especially for a car under $30,000.

It mixed some decent material with '70s flair to create an interesting, highly stylized interior.

The black dashboard in mine, for example, was mostly old-school flat with a great curved hood over the instrument panel.

Meanwhile, the main part of the mid-dash facing driver and passenger was in white plastic of some sort, reminiscent of the Bug's metal body-colored dash.

A small touch screen anchored a low-key horizontal center stack, offering a stereo in a German car controlled by—get this—real knobs.

Although the front seats had modest bolsters for support, they were stitched in classy-looking smooth leather.

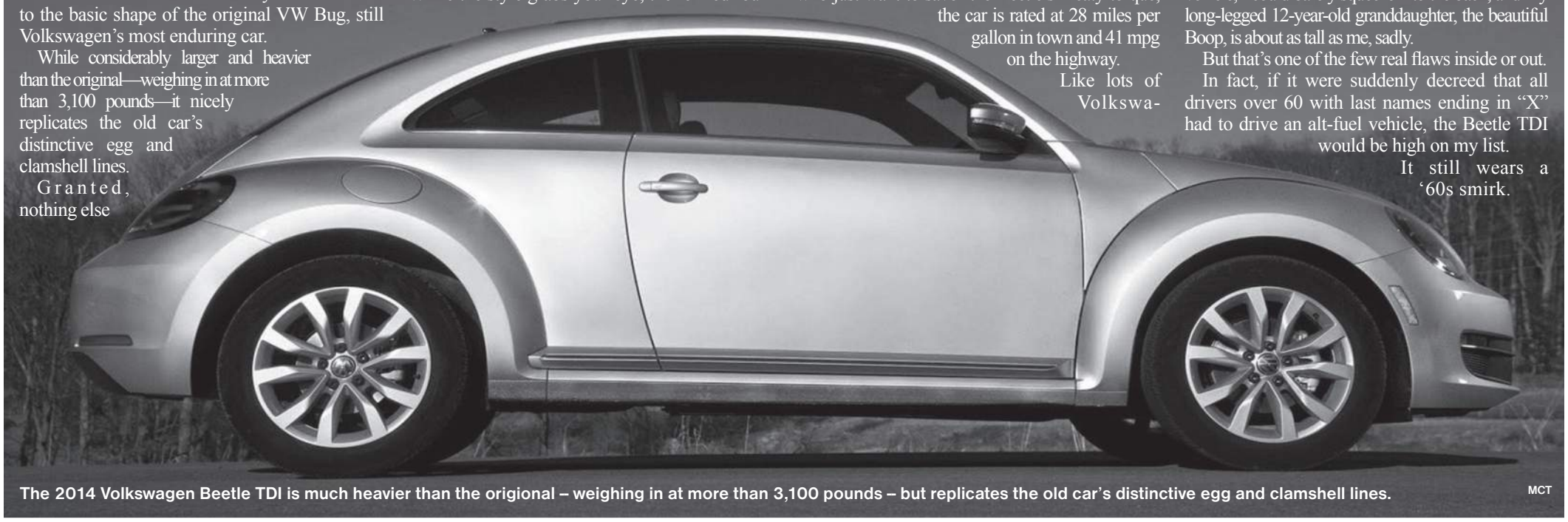
Moreover, the Beetle was equipped with a black-knit headliner that matched the color of the rest of the interior—as it should.

If you have large kids, though, they may have to ride on top. While it's technically a four-passenger vehicle, I could barely squeeze into the back, and my long-legged 12-year-old granddaughter, the beautiful Boop, is about as tall as me, sadly.

But that's one of the few real flaws inside or out.

In fact, if it were suddenly decreed that all drivers over 60 with last names ending in "X" had to drive an alt-fuel vehicle, the Beetle TDI would be high on my list.

It still wears a '60s smirk.



The 2014 Volkswagen Beetle TDI is much heavier than the origional – weighing in at more than 3,100 pounds – but replicates the old car's distinctive egg and clamshell lines. MCT

At 100,000 miles, Buick could probably use prescribed service

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I have owned a 2008 Buick Lucerne since new. It is now approaching the 100,000-mile mark. It has been driven probably 80 percent freeway. The manual states at this point the plugs should be changed and transmission and cooling system drained and replaced, etc. From this point forward it will be only driven four months a year, about 3,000 miles, mostly city driving. Should this service be done?

A: I often receive questions asking me whether prescribed maintenance really needs to be done. And it's not fair. If I answer yes, you're not particularly happy that I "told" you to spend the money and get it done. If I say no, and something happens down the road—I'm the bad guy!

So I ask you to make the decision. Some facts that may help:

At 100,000 miles, the additives in the coolant and transmission fluid—the anti-oxidant, anti-wear, anti-corrosion, etc.—are pretty much used up. The transmission fluid is contaminated with some level of normal wear/tear debris and oxidized fluid. The PH level of the coolant may reach a level where you can actually measure voltage from it. The old coolant slowly corrodes cooling system components. The oxidized transmission fluid slowly evolves into varnishes and deposits that can stick hydraulic valves and restrict hydraulic passages.

Also, moisture buildup in contaminated brake fluid from all those years and miles corrodes brake system parts, the thermostat will sit closed for long periods, increasing the chance of it sticking closed when you restart the engine, hoses and belts deteriorate with age, etc., etc., etc.

Remember the classic commercial, "Pay me now or pay me later"? There's significant truth to that.

Q: I have a 2008 Camry with a tire pressure monitoring system. When I bought four new tires, the low-pressure icon came on. I reset the pressure to the recommended 32 psi, but the icon stayed on. The manual said to push the reset button located in the glove compartment. There was no button. The Toyota dealer said the button may be located in various positions under the dash. No button was found. My mechanic who routinely services the car said that the car's computer will shut off the icon, but it is still on. He said that if it continues to stay on, one of the valve stem sensors may have been damaged when the tires were changed and to bring it to the tire dealer. I would just as soon check the tire pressure all around every two to three weeks and ignore the icon. Do you have any thoughts about this?

A: Why defeat an important safety system that will warn you of a rapidly deflating tire as you are driving? Your mechanic is correct, the system should reset itself after a short period. If it doesn't, the system may need to be re-initialized, a process that needs dealer equipment. Or, there may well be a damaged TPS sensor in one of the wheels.

Take the car back to the tire dealer. Ask him to investigate/repair the problem—perhaps he installed a new sensor and failed to "register" it to the system computer. You could also have the dealer try re-initializing the system.

By the way, my ALLDATA shows the reset button just to the left of the glove box on the lower dash.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Jane Fonda gets personal at Rape Foundation brunch

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Jane Fonda told an audience of activists and philanthropists that her mother had been sexually abused as a child before eventually committing suicide at 42.

Fonda shared the personal story at an event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Rape Treatment Center, which provides comprehensive free treatment for sexual assault victims. She hosted the Rape Foundation's annual fundraising brunch Sunday at billionaire Ron Burkle's Greenacres estate in Beverly Hills.

Fonda said that while writing her memoirs, she reviewed her mother's medical records and discovered she had been sexually abused when she was 8 years old. Frances Ford Seymour committed suicide when Fonda was 12.

"The minute that I read that, everything fell into place," Fonda said from a small stage set up in Burkle's sprawling backyard. "I knew why the promiscuity, the endless plastic surgery, the guilt, the inability to love or be intimate, and I was able to forgive her and forgive myself."

She said sexual violence is "epidemic," vowing, "I will support the Rape Treatment Center for the rest of my life."

Lily Tomlin introduced Fonda, her "9 to 5" co-star and longtime friend. David Schwimmer and Eric McCormack also spoke during the luncheon, where guests included Viola Davis, Emmy Rossum and Sam Waterson.

Gail Abarbanel, founder of the Rape Treatment Center and president of the Rape Foundation, introduced several rape survivors, including the mother of the victim of the 2012 Steubenville High School assault in Ohio. She noted her daughter's bravery in pressing charges against her attackers—beloved star football players who had the support of the community.

Schwimmer and McCormack asked the deep-pocketed in the crowd for their support, and five people—including Burkle—spontaneously gave $100,000 to help the Rape Treatment Center continue to offer free medical, psychological and legal services to children and adults.

The Rape Foundation also provides free training for first responders and sexual assault prevention programs nationwide.

AP

Actress and event host Jane Fonda and actress Lily Tomlin, right, pose at The Rape Foundation's Annual Brunch at Greenacres on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Washington's 'The Equalizer' debuts with $35M

AP

In this image released by Columbia Pictures, Denzel Washington appears in a scene from the film, "The Equalizer."

NEW YORK (AP)—Flexing his star power, Denzel Washington led the thriller "The Equalizer" to a $35 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Sony-Columbia Pictures release dominated the weekend box office, surpassing some expectations for the film. Washington plays a former commando living a quiet life in Boston when the disappearance of a prostitute acquaintance (Chloe Grace Moretz) lures him into a battle with the Russian mafia.

The strong opening marks the third-best debut in Washington's career, trailing only 2012's "Safe House" ($40.1 million) and 2007's "American Gangster" ($43.6 million). Washington, who will turn 60 in December, has been one of Hollywood's most reliable draws without the benefit of anything like a superhero franchise.

"He's the very model of box-office consistency," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "I can't think of another star that's this consistent, that remains this rock solid over the course of three decades."

"The Equalizer" reteams Washington with director Antoine Fuqua," who helmed 2001's "Training Day." That film memorably earned Washington an Oscar for best actor. A sequel to "The Equalizer," which is loosely based on the `80s CBS series, is already in development.

"We feel like we have a real opportunity with a sequel and a possible franchise with this film," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony.

Last weekend's top performer, the young-adult novel adaptation "The Maze Runner," starring Dylan O'Brien, slid to second with $17.5 million in its second week. The 20th Century Fox release also has a sequel in the works, due out next September.

The stop-motion animated release "The Boxtrolls" opened in third place with $17.3 million. It's the best opening yet for Laika, the Oregon-based animation studio whose previous films are the Oscar-nominated "Coraline" and "ParaNorman."

Critics have been less enthusiastic about "The Boxtrolls," about a boy who's raised by nocturnal, box-wearing critters beneath the British village of Cheesebridge. But the Focus Features release capitalized on the relative dearth of family-friendly options in theaters over recent months.

1. **"The Equalizer,"** $35 million ($17.8 million international).
2. **"The Maze Runner,"** $17.5 million ($27.5 million international).
3. **"The Boxtrolls,"** $17.2 million ($5.1 million international).
4. **"This Is Where I Leave You,"** $7 million.
5. **"Dolphin Tale 2,"** $4.8 million.
6. "No Good Deed," $4.6 million.
7. **"A Walk Among the Tombstones,"** $4.2 million ($2.1 million international).
8. **"Guardians of the Galaxy,"** $3.8 million ($4 million international).
9. **"Let's Be Cops,"** $1.5 million ($1 million international).
10. **"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,"** $1.5 million ($3.9 million international).

'Magical Girl' wins Spanish top film award

MADRID (AP)—Spanish director Carlos Vermut won this year's top award for his film "Magical Girl" and also claimed the best director prize Saturday at Spain's San Sebastian Film Festival.

The movie, a Spanish-French co-production starring Luis Bermejo, Jose Sacristan, Barbara Lennie and Lucia Pollan, is Vermut's second feature film—after his debut with "Diamond Flash"—and is a crime drama in the film noir tradition, set in Madrid and with references to Japanese manga comics.

It tells the story of Alicia, a sickly child who dreams of a dress in a comic strip called "Magical Girl Yukiko." Her father, Luis, will do anything to make his ailing daughter's dreams come true, but the characters become enmeshed in a plot of blackmail and irresistible fate.

"Cinema is a trip you don't embark upon alone," said Vermut. "I ??like characters more than plots, and I've featured as a character in the previous award," he said when presented with the best film statuette.

Javier Gutierrez won the best actor award for his interpretation of a policeman poles apart from his partner in Alberto Rodriguez's thriller "La Isla Minima" ("Marshland").

The two cops are sent—as a reprimand for a previous mistake—to investigate the disappearance of two teenagers in a remote village firmly anchored in the past. There they must pit their wits against a brutal killer.

"The real winner is the atmosphere of the film," said cameraman Alex Catalan who stepped up to collect the best filmography award for the movie in which Gutierrez starred.

Danish actress Paprika Steen was given the best actress award for her role in "Stille Hjerte" (Silent Heart), directed by fellow Dane Bille August.

At the festival, actors Denzel Washington and Benicio del Toro were also awarded with the Donostia Award acknowledging their careers. San Sebastian.

Dempsey holds 1st challenge since mother's death

LEWISTON, Maine (AP)—Thousands of runners took part Saturday in the sixth Dempsey Challenge, the first time the cancer support fundraiser in honor of Patrick Dempsey's mother has been held since her death.

"This year's Dempsey Challenge is difficult without our mother but she is with us in our hearts and minds," Dempsey and his sisters, Mary and Alicia, said in a statement. "We are reminded of her strength in all of the survivors, friends, patients and family who join us this weekend in celebrating hope."

For five years, their mother Amanda Dempsey led the survivor walk that opened the event. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1997 and battled multiple recurrences in the years that followed. She died in March at 79.

Patrick Dempsey, who plays Dr. Derek Shepherd on TV's "Grey's Anatomy," launched the Dempsey Challenge because of his mother's battles.

The Sun-Journal reported that Dempsey told the crowd Saturday at the starting line: "This is one of the most important days of my life." The actor joked around and chatted with participants, and he signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans.

Money raised from the event goes to The Patrick Dempsey Center for Cancer Hope & Healing, which he and his sisters created in 2008 in partnership with the Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. Last year's Dempsey Challenge raised $1.1 million for the center, which provides free support, education and integrative medicine services for anyone impacted by cancer.

Saturday's events included 5K and 10K runs. Sunday's events focused on cycling, with rides ranging from 10 miles to 100 miles, following by a closing ceremony with the actor.

Clooney, wife make newlywed appearance in Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Wedding bands glinted under the Venetian sun on the hands of George Clooney and his new bride, Amal Alamuddin, as the heartthrob actor and the human rights lawyer emerged Sunday from the luxury hotel where they were married a day earlier.

The groom, in a smart light gray suit, sported a simple ring on his left hand. His wife, in a flouncy white short dress with pastel-colored appliques resembling flower blossoms, wore a thin band studded with what appeared to be roundish diamonds. The newlyweds shaded their eyes from the afternoon sunlight with dark glasses.

They hopped into a waiting water taxi and, with Clooney putting his arm around her frequently, made their way down the Grand Canal to another waterside hotel where many of their guests were staying. Gondoliers steered out of their way.

Tourists and Venetians cheered when Clooney waved and Alamuddin smiled broadly.

George Clooney and his wife Amal Alamuddin, cruise the Grand Canal after leaving the Aman luxury Hotel in Venice, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014. AP

The 53-year-old actor, who had vowed he'd never wed again, and the 36-year-old London-based lawyer, were married with Hollywood stars and family among guests.

Celebrity-watching will last at least another day in Venice. City officials have announced the closure on Monday of a stretch of pedestrian walkway along the Grand Canal near the 16th-century Cavalli Palace, so the couple can have a civil marriage ceremony there. The palace is right across from the Aman hotel where the couple wed on Saturday evening.

The marriage is the first for the bride and the second for Clooney, who had been one of the world's most sought-after bachelors since 1993, following a four-year marriage to actress Talia Balsam.

The bride left her native Lebanon during its civil war and was raised in the United Kingdom. The Oxford-University-educated Alamuddin met Clooney, who is involved in many political causes, through her work.

'Downton Abbey' star heads on US band tour

NEW YORK (AP)—"Downton Abbey" won't be the only place fans can see Elizabeth McGovern this winter: The show's star is heading on a tour with her folk-rock band in December.

McGovern is the lead singer for Sadie and the Hotheads, which embarks on its first U.S. tour Dec. 4 in Washington. The 10-date tour wraps Dec. 14 in Hartford, Connecticut.

McGovern plays the role of American heiress Cora Crawley, the Countess of Grantham, on the hit "Downton Abbey," which has its fifth season premiere on Jan. 4. The timing of the tour and the show's return is a coincidence, McGovern said.

"It's a slightly funny experience for fans of the show to come hear the music because it's such a different world to the show itself," McGovern told The Associated Press on Sunday. "When we first started touring there would be a lot of people carrying `Downtown Abbey' books ... and I could see a look of surprise on their faces because it isn't what you expect. I mean it's not a classical quartet of violins."

The PBS series has earned the 53-year-old actress Golden Globe and Emmy nominations.

Sadie and the Hotheads have performed in Europe. The seven-member group released their debut album in 2007 and dropped their third album, "Still Waiting," earlier this year.

"It's an electric mix of songs in terms of musical genre," she said.

McGovern received an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress for her role in the 1981 movie "Ragtime." She has appeared onstage in New York and London.

"I think it's coming at the right time since we slowly built experience with each other," she said of performing in America. "I feel like we're more ready than we've ever been ... I go there with more confidence than I would have in the past."

Their 2012 album, "How Not to Lose Things," featured guest vocals from Michelle Dockery, who plays McGovern's eldest daughter, Lady Mary Crawley, on "Downton Abbey."

"There's a lot of her spirit in that album," McGovern said.

McGovern said fans can expect "rich" and "textured" moments from the upcoming season of "Downton."

Sadie and the Hotheads' tour will visit New York City; Newark, New Jersey; and Annapolis, Maryland. Most tickets go on sale Friday.

Aretha Franklin CD of diva classics due Oct. 21

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin is showing some R-E-S-P-E-C-T to her fellow divas: The Queen of Soul will release an album Oct. 21 covering classic songs from other female singers.

"Aretha Franklin Sings the Great Diva Classics" will include songs such as Gladys Knight's "Midnight Train to Georgia," Barbra Streisand's "People" and Whitney Houston's "I'm Every Woman."

The most contemporary track is a reworking of Adele's colossal hit "Rolling In the Deep," which is the first single off the album. It will be available digitally Monday, when the 72-year-old will also perform the song on "Late Night with David Letterman."

"Great Diva Classics" reunites Franklin with longtime collaborator Clive Davis.

"I mean, it is great," he said in an interview. "For her to do all these songs, it's very exciting."

Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and Andre 3000 are among the album's producers. Other songs covered by Franklin include the Supremes' "You Keep Me Hangin' On," Alicia Keys' "No One" and Dinah Washington's "Teach Me Tonight." The icon's version of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" will incorporate some of Destiny Child's "Survivor."

The opening track is Etta James' signature song, "At Last," and Franklin closes the 10-track set with Sinead O'Connor's "Nothing Compares 2 U."

Swift, Metallica set for Rock in Rio fest in Vegas

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift and Metallica are among the performers set for the U.S. debut of the Rock in Rio music festival next year.

Festival organizers say No Doubt, Linkin Park, The Deftones and John Legend also will perform during the four-day event in Las Vegas. Rock in Rio USA debuts May 8-9 and May 15-16.

No Doubt attended a press conference Friday announcing the lineup in New York's Time Square, where John Mayer also surprised the crowd with a live performance of two songs. Mayer performed at the 2013 Rock in Rio festival alongside Beyonce and Justin Timberlake.

A group including casino company MGM Resorts plans to build a 33-acre, open-air music venue on the Las Vegas Strip for the festival. Plans call for five stages.

Rock in Rio launched in 1985. The festival also will be held in Rio de Janeiro in September 2015, featuring Katy Perry and Legend.

Leah Remini, Jennifer Lopez hit in minor car accident

MALIBU, California (AP)—Authorities say an SUV carrying actress Leah Remini and singer Jennifer Lopez and her two children, was rear-ended by a suspected drunken driver who then fled the scene.

Lopez

Los Angeles county Sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks says Remini was driving Lopez's SUV at about 8 p.m. Saturday and stopped at a traffic light in Malibu. Their vehicle was rear-ended by a pickup truck. No one was injured.

The drivers got out of their vehicles to assess the minor damage and were about to exchange information when the man got into his truck and drove off.

Deputies stopped him a short distance away. He was arrested and booked on suspicion of drunken driving and hit and run.

Brooks didn't have the man's name. TMZ first reported the crash.

Aging caregiver must find respite time for herself

DEAR ABBY: How can I convince my aging, sick sister-in-law that her feeble husband's care is too much for her at this point? She can barely care for herself, yet she must help him eat, get out of chairs—everything short of chew his food for him. I have tried telling her she deserves respite care of some kind, to no avail.

Have you any ideas how I can convince her she is literally killing herself and deserves some assistance? Their three daughters are no help at all to them. They turn a blind eye from their parents' situation.

RELATIVE WHO CARES IN OHIO

DEAR RELATIVE: I can think of a few things you might do to help. The first would be to talk to the daughters and explain your concerns for their mother's health -- because if she doesn't get some respite care, SHE could die before their father does. Be sure to point out that if that happens, their father's care would become THEIR responsibility. When they realize the effect it would have on their own lives, it might motivate them to do something.

The second would be to do some research and see what options are available for part-time caregivers or senior day care centers where her husband would be safe and looked after while your sister-in-law has a few precious hours to herself. The man's doctor could guide you.

Then have a frank talk with her and explain that for her to be as effective a caregiver as she obviously wants to be, she's going to have to take better care of herself because the track she's on right now could cost her her own health or even her life, and that's no exaggeration.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 29-year-old single man who is hard of hearing. I have a steady job and plans for a good future, but I'm having trouble in the dating world.

I would love to have a special someone in my life, but I'm shy. I have a hard time talking with the girls who live in my area. I can hear people pretty well unless they mumble or talk quietly, or face away from me when they speak.

I have asked people to repeat what they say (I try not to do it often) if I missed something. They get frustrated and so do I, and then they say, "Never mind!"

I try so hard to hear people. But it seems the harder I try, the less it seems worth it to find a relationship. Any tips on dealing with impatient and non-understanding people?

FRUSTRATED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR FRUSTRATED: As people age, many of them encounter the problem you are trying to cope with now at your young age. Hearing loss is difficult because it is often subtle and can be extremely isolating for the person who has it.

My first tip would be to avoid noisy places for meeting women, if you can. My second would be to be upfront about your hearing loss right off the bat. If a woman finds you attractive, she will find ways to accommodate the problem. And if she doesn't, then she wasn't the right candidate for a relationship in the first place.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SO WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ON TV?
IT'S GREAT!
NOW THAT I'M ON TELEVISION, I'M DIFFERENT FROM EVERYBODY ELSE! I'M FAMOUS! IMPORTANT!
SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS ME, EVERYTHING I DO NOW IS NEWSWORTHY. I'M A CULTURAL ICON.
I THINK YOUR ANTENNA NEEDS ADJUSTING.
WATCH, I'LL USE MY PRESTIGE TO ENDORSE A PRODUCT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

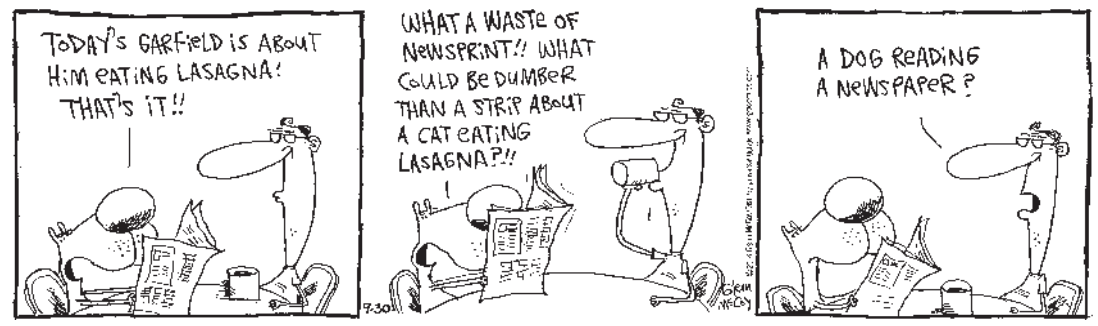
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU LOVE COFFEE, DON'T YOU?
I DO.
WHY?
'CAUSE IT TASTES GREAT AND IT MAKES ME HAPPY.
THAT'S A GOOD REASON.
YEP.
DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT IT GIVES YOU TEACHER BREATH?
NOPE. TEACHERS ROCK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


TODAY'S GARFIELD IS ABOUT HIM EATING LASAGNA! THAT'S IT!!
WHAT A WASTE OF NEWSPRINT!! WHAT COULD BE DUMBER THAN A STRIP ABOUT A CAT EATING LASAGNA?!!
A DOG READING A NEWSPAPER?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Dog owner's chore
5 Pair
8 Wound cover
12 Concept
13 Carpool lane abbr.
14 Sharpen
15 Pass
17 Memory method
18 Legislation
19 Pay increases
21 Theater staffer
24 "Yeah, right"
25 Jack Horner's prize
26 Medley of show tunes, often
30 Label
31 Wall-climbing plants
32 Unhappy
33 Domineer
35 Ward (off)
36 Deserve
37 "Th-th-that's all, folks" speaker
38 Warhol's specialty
41 Moving vehicle
42 Divas' problems
43 Medicinal excess
48 Therefore
49 Run-down horse
50 King of the jungle
51 Ponce de —
52 Greek H
53 Differently

DOWN
1 Life story, for short
2 Pt. of speech
3 Golf prop
4 Globe-trotters' home?
5 Dissolve
6 Stir-fry pan
7 Supervisor
8 Short — (little attention)
9 Doves' comments
10 Initial stake
11 Honey bunch?
16 Pitch
20 Ostentatious display
21 Doing
22 Belgrade native
23 Ginormous
24 Bird-related
26 Shading
27 Addict
28 File crosser
29 Vortex
31 Construction piece
34 Logic
35 Touch lovingly
37 Standard
38 Rind
39 Fairy tale villain
40 Comic strip possum
41 Singer Suzanne
44 Cistern
45 Lubricate
46 "Help!"
47 Away from WSW

Solution time: 22 mins.

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K	E	N		S	I	E	G	E		N	A	B
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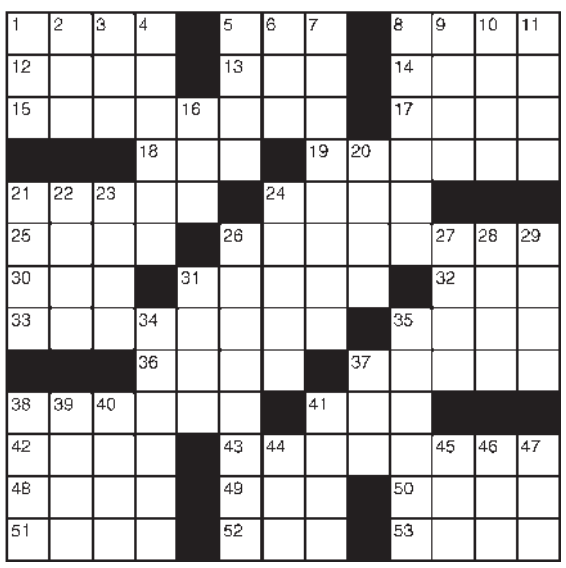
Yesterday's answer 9-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lacey Chabert, 32; Marion Cotillard, 39; Jenna Elfman, 43; Fran Drescher, 57.

Happy Birthday: Put a little muscle behind whatever you do, and you will accomplish big things this year. Hands-on action will help you control any situation you face. You will encounter some opposition along the way, but if you are steadfast and carry on with your plans, you will reach your destination. A change with regard to friendships, partnerships or an intimate relationship can be expected. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 28, 31, 44, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Physical activity will get you heading in the right direction. Whether you dance, go to the gym or do physical labor, you will ease your stress. A change in your daily routine will lead to new acquaintances that will influence your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hold on to your cash. A joint venture will go sour. Lending to or paying for others will lead to loss of friendship and funds. Focus on gaining experience and establishing better relationships with friends, relatives and peers. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the initiative and make the first move. Open up about how you feel and your plans for the future. Romance will improve your relationship with someone special. A joint effort will allow you to accomplish twice as much. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get your facts and plans straight before you press forward. Someone who wants to take over will apply unexpected pressure. Preparation and strategy will help you counter any obstacle that gets in your way. Play to win. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got what it takes to make things happen. Don't sit back and let life pass you by when you should be calling the shots and experiencing what life is all about. Live, love, laugh and be happy. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of your personal, financial and domestic responsibilities. Neglecting your duties will result in discord and disappointment. A disciplined approach, serious attitude and insightful mindset will ensure that you bypass any interference. ✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sign up for a course or book an adventure trip. Don't sit back and let time tick away. Take advantage of any opportunity to make new friends and pursue your interests. A makeover will give you a boost. Say "yes" to change and new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't go overboard. Stay within bounds and stick to the rules. Save the unusual or unorthodox alterations for you and you alone. A chance to make a positive change at work is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Being eager and enthusiastic will rub off on the people you encounter. Your infectious attitude will draw interest from someone who is in a key position. Love is in the stars, but mixing business with pleasure is not a good idea. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful whom you share your secrets with. Trying to make personal or physical changes will backfire, leaving you in an awkward position. Money can be made, but pursue profits individually rather than as part of a partnership. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll get all the help you need if you turn on the charm. Join a group, participate in a challenging activity or invest in your financial or professional future. Speak from the heart and make a promise to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let someone's emotional manipulation cause confusion. You are best to look at the big picture, especially if money is involved. A partnership will need some guidelines put in place before you strike a binding deal. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome and unpredictable. You are magnetic and full of surprises.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8					2		
9	5		1			4		
					2		8	3
	1		7				5	
4		8				9		1
	6				3		4	
7	2		6					
		3			5		2	4
		6					9	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/30

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	2	4	5	1	6	8	3
5	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	4
4	8	3	6	9	7	1	5	2
6	2	8	1	4	5	3	7	9
9	4	7	2	6	3	8	1	5
3	5	1	8	7	9	2	4	6
1	3	9	5	8	6	4	2	7
2	6	5	7	1	4	9	3	8
8	7	4	9	3	2	5	6	1

Difficulty Level ★ 9/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RICHARD THE LIONHEART Solution: 11 letters

M	N	A	C	R	E	L	F	O	L	K	L	O	R	E
O	H	T	Ⓐ	O	I	R	E	I	G	N	X	C	N	N
S	O	C	Ⓔ	A	A	E	P	O	P	F	E	I	A	G
N	J	O	Ⓢ	N	R	V	H	H	O	R	L	N	N	L
A	L	I	C	E	O	O	E	R	E	E	U	O	T	A
R	O	E	I	C	N	L	D	D	R	N	R	C	E	N
D	R	R	T	A	A	T	A	I	S	M	R	I	S	D
O	D	E	A	L	E	E	P	R	A	A	U	Y	R	I
O	Y	D	I	A	L	M	E	N	D	I	Y	E	D	S
H	T	N	R	P	E	C	D	L	I	N	T	B	L	G
N	L	A	D	N	N	Y	D	U	K	E	L	A	O	U
I	A	M	A	A	M	P	U	O	J	N	A	R	P	I
B	Y	M	M	R	Y	R	T	E	O	P	Y	O	O	S
O	O	O	A	C	O	U	N	T	H	R	O	N	E	E
R	R	C	R	O	S	S	B	O	W	O	L	S	L	N

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Acre, Adriatic, Alice, Anjou, Army, Barons, Commander, Count, Crossbow, Cyprus, Disguise, Duke, Eleanor, England, Folklore, France, Heir, Henry, Iconic, John, Leader, Leopold, Lord, Loyalty, Maine, Nantes, Normandy, Oath, Oxford, Palace, Poetry, Pope, Ransom, Reign, Revolt, Robin Hood, Romancers, Roman Empire, Royalty, Rule, Sail, Sea, Throne.

Yesterday's Answer: By Myself

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Gaming Cage Worker (1)

Position Summary: Conduct financial transactions for patrons and guests. Follow all cash desk regulations. Participate in the soft count as required. Ensure that the cash desk float balances during and at the end of shift; reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as a gaming cage worker or work experience at a gaming establishment cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

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Position Summary: Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience
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Human Resources Officer (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for planning, development, and implementation of all HR policies, procedures, standards, systems and program; provide supervision and direction as well as coordinate all activities of the Human Resources Office to ensure that all established goals are achieved; Manages and administers a specialized corporate-wide human resource activity such as recruitment, selection and retention, employee relations, compensation, training and development, organizational development, classification, training or benefits and occupational safety. Responsible for major program administration, policy and procedure formulation and implementation involving in-depth communication and analysis.

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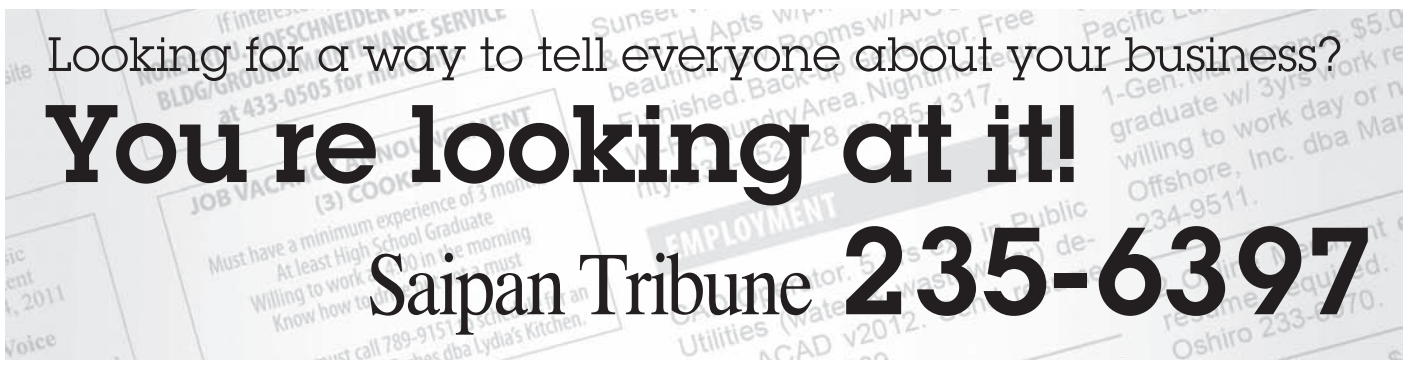

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Gore powers 49ers past Eagles to avoid 3-game skid

AP
San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore (21) celebrates with fans after scoring on a 55-yard touchdown reception against the Philadelphia Eagles during the second quarter of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—The San Francisco 49ers got Frank Gore involved in the offense again, and it returned them to their winning ways.

Hard-nosed defense helped, too.

Gore caught a career-best 55-yard touchdown and ran for 119 yards in his first 100-yard game of 2014, leading the San Francisco 49ers past Philadelphia 26-21 on Sunday to hand the Eagles their first loss.

The 49ers (2-2) avoided their first three-game losing streak under fourth-year coach Jim Harbaugh, containing the league's top passer. Nick Foles threw two incomplete passes from the 1 in the waning moments after gaining six first downs a lengthy drive, more than the five the Eagles managed before that.

Foles completed a 22-yard pass to Jeremy Maclin on the right sideline on that late drive. The 49ers challenged whether he had possession, but the play stood, costing the 49ers their final timeout.

The Eagles couldn't pull off the second-half magic that had carried them in their three wins.

On a day the 49ers gave up big plays on special teams, Gore delivered. Colin Kaepernick also threw a touchdown pass to Stevie Johnson and Phil Dawson kicked three field goals—two of at least 46 yards. Kaepernick finished 17 for 30 for 218 yards, two TDs and four sacks.

Darren Sproles had a career-best 82-yard punt return for a touchdown, Malcolm Jenkins ran an interception 53 yards for a score for the Eagles (3-1). Brad Smith recovered Trey Burton's blocked punt against Andy Lee for a TD.

The 49ers produced in the second half for the first time this season to give Harbaugh a win against former Pac-10 foe Chip Kelly.

Antoine Bethea intercepted his first pass with the 49ers and forced a fumble, then the secondary kept the pressure on in the red zone. Perrish Cox made an interception with 41 seconds left to seal it.

Gore's long scored from an off-balance throw by Kaepernick on the first play of the second quarter was the longest TD catch by a running back this season.

But on San Francisco's next series, Kaepernick threw right to Jenkins and he broke three tackles on the way to the end zone.

The 49ers won their first game at new Levi's Stadium, where thousands of fans skipped out at halftime.

San Francisco outgained the Eagles 232-73 in the first half, but still trailed 21-13. Then Johnson tiptoed both feet inbounds inside the left pylon in the third quarter for a 12-yard catch, the first second-half TD of the year for San Francisco, outscored 52-3 after halftime in its first three games.

Dawson kicked a 51-yarder before halftime, but the NFL's most-penalized team hurt itself with seven more flags for 60 yards in the first half and 10 total for 80 yards. The Eagles also had 10 penalties for 70.

San Francisco right tackle Anthony Davis made his season debut but went down on the final play of the first quarter when Kaepernick took a sack right into the back of Davis' left knee. Tight end Vernon Davis was sidelined with a back injury early in the third quarter; he missed last Sunday's loss at Arizona with a hurting left ankle.

Foles, who led the NFL in passer rating a year ago, was 21 for 43 for 195 yards and two interceptions.

Buccaneers 27, Steelers 24

In Pittsburgh, Mike Glennon hit a diving Vincent Jackson for a 5-yard touchdown with 7 seconds remaining to lift Tampa Bay to a stunning win.

The Buccaneers (1-3) lost to Atlanta by six touchdowns a week ago but bounced back. Glennon passed for 302 yards in his first start of the season, including a 41-yard catch-and-run by Louis Murphy that set up Jackson's score.

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 314 yards and three touchdowns, but Pittsburgh (2-2) couldn't protect a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter. Antonio Brown caught seven passes for 131 yards and two scores, and Heath Miller added a career-high nine grabs.

The Steelers committed 13 penalties for 125 yards.

Cowboys 38, Saints 17

In Arlington, Texas, Tony Romo threw three touchdowns passes, two to Terrance Williams, and DeMarco Murray ran for a pair of scores in another 100-yard game.

The Cowboys kept Drew Brees and the Saints scoreless in the first half after giving up an NFL-record 40 first downs in a 49-17 blowout loss in New Orleans last year. Brees led two scoring drives early in the fourth quarter to cut a 31-3 deficit in half before the Cowboys regained control.

Dallas (3-1) is tied with Philadelphia for the NFC East lead.

The Saints (1-3) couldn't sustain the momentum from their win against Minnesota and lost to the Cowboys in Texas for the first time since 1991.

Ravens 38, Panthers 10

In Baltimore, Steve Smith punished his former team with seven catches for 139 yards and two touchdowns. Smith spent 13 seasons with Carolina before he was released in a cost-cutting move during the offseason. The 35-year-old receiver showed the Panthers he can still make the big play, scoring twice in the second quarter to help put Baltimore (3-1) in front 21-7 at halftime.

The first touchdown came when Smith grabbed a pass that deflected off the right hand of teammate Owen Daniels. He caught the ball in stride and took it into the end zone to complete a 61-yard play.

Smith also scored from 21 yards with a diving reception.

Joe Flacco went 22 of 31 for 327 yards and three touchdowns, the other a 24-yarder to Torrey Smith.

Carolina (2-2) has lost two straight, both in lopsided fashion against AFC North foes.

Packers 38, Bears 17

In Chicago, Aaron Rodgers threw for 302 yards and four touchdowns, and the Packers shook off one of their worst offensive performances in years.

The Packers (2-2) scored on their first six possessions to build a 38-17 lead. They racked up 358 yards after being held to 223, their lowest total since 2008, a week earlier in a 19-7 loss at Detroit.

They intercepted Jay Cutler twice in the third quarter to pull away from the Bears (2-2). That gave Green Bay five straight wins at Soldier Field, including the NFC title game four years ago and a playoffs-or-bust finale for both teams last season.

Chargers 33, Jaguars 14

In San Diego, Philip Rivers threw for 377 yards and three touchdowns, two to Eddie Royal.

Royal had scoring catches of 47 and 43 yards, his second straight two-touchdown game. The Chargers (3-1) extended their winning streak to three.

Passing because the Chargers' running game is nonexistent due to injuries to Ryan Mathews and Danny Woodhead, Rivers had his second three-touchdown game of the season. He went 29 of 39.

Royal had five catches for 105 yards. Keenan Allen had 10 for 135, both career highs, and Malcom Floyd had a 24-yard touchdown catch.

Rookie Blake Bortles made his first start for the Jaguars (0-4), threw one touchdown pass, was intercepted twice and twice had Jacksonville in the lead in the first half.

Vikings 41, Falcons 28

In Minneapolis, Teddy Bridgewater passed for 317 yards and a key 2-point conversion before leaving with an ankle injury. The rookie was 19 for 30 with no turnovers and ran five times for 27 yards and a score in his first career start, but his last carry was costly. His left foot rolled underneath him as he was sandwiched by two tacklers at the 1-yard line.

Matt Asiata powered his way in on the next play for his third touchdown, and Bridgewater stayed in to zip a crisp pass to Rhett Ellison to push the lead to 35-28.

As Bridgewater was taken away on a cart for X-rays, Christian Ponder took over at quarterback for the Vikings (2-1).

The Falcons (2-2) lost three starting offensive linemen to injuries and wound up sticking tight end Levine Toilolo at right tackle in the fourth quarter.

Texans 23, Bills 17

In Houston, J.J. Watt had another highlight-reel play to help the Texans overcome a tough day offensively. Houston (3-1) was down by three in the third quarter and Ryan Fitzpatrick had just thrown a second interception when the 6-foot-5, 289-pound Watt returned an interception 80 yards to put the Texans up 14-10.

The defensive end caught a touchdown pass in Week 2, giving him more TDs this year than Arian Foster and Andre Johnson combined.

Under heavy pressure all afternoon, EJ Manuel finished with 225 yards passing with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Bills (2-2). Buffalo was driving late when Darryl Morris picked him off at the Houston 15 to secure the victory.

Lions 24, Jets 17

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score as the Lions overcame Calvin Johnson being limited by an ankle injury.

Jeremy Ross and Eric Ebron caught scoring passes for the Lions, who are 3-1 for the second straight season. Stafford finished 24 of 34 for 293 yards.

Johnson, who was in and out of the game, was clearly impeded by his injured ankle. He had just two catches for 12 yards. Golden Tate had a big game, catching eight passes for 116 yards.

A struggling Geno Smith had two more turnovers as chants of "We Want Vick!" echoed throughout MetLife Stadium at times. The Jets, who made it close on Chris Johnson's 35-yard run with 6:58 left, fell to 1-3 for the first time in Rex Ryan's six seasons as coach.

Zimmermann's no-hitter for Nats ends on great grab

WASHINGTON (AP)— One out away from pitching the Washington Nationals' first no-hitter, Jordan Zimmermann watched his 104th pitch on a crisp, clear Sunday afternoon get smacked toward deep left-center.

Zimmermann leaned his head back and winced. His first thought: "Double. No-doubt double."

"And then," the right-hander said later, "he comes out of nowhere and makes that catch."

Thanks to a dramatic, diving grab by little-used rookie Steven Souza Jr., who came on as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning, Zimmermann completed his gem, a 1-0 victory for the NL East champion Nationals over the Miami Marlins.

"I thought there was no way this would ever happen. My career numbers are something like one hit per inning, so I figure if I can make it out of the first, the hit's coming in the second," said the 28-year-old Zimmermann, a quiet guy who was a second-round draft pick in 2007 out of Division III University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "But today was one of those special days."

Almost morphed into a one-hitter, though. With two outs in the ninth and a 2-1 count, Marlins leadoff man Christian Yelich turned on a 94 mph fastball over the plate.

Souza was shaded well over toward the left-field line at a coach's prompting.

"He probably couldn't have been more out of position," said right fielder Jayson Werth, who watched it all unfold from what became a nearly silent home dugout.

"I was just thinking to myself, `It is not optimal to be Steven Souza right now, because as soon as you come into the game, every time, the ball's going to find you,'" Werth said. "I had a feeling something crazy would happen. But not that crazy, that's for sure."

Souza sprinted, extended his glove and leaped for the sensational catch, using his bare hand to squeeze the ball in his mitt as he fell.

"The one thing on my mind is, no matter how I'm going to get there, I'm going to get there," Souza said. "Getting there, I kind of blacked out."

Souza held his glove aloft to show he had the ball. Zimmermann raised both arms. Nationals relievers in the home bullpen lifted their arms, too. So did thousands in the Nationals Park crowd of 35,085, who roared with every pitch late.

"I don't think anyone in the stadium expected Souza to get to that," Zimmermann said.

Indeed, Miami's Mike Dunn said he and other relievers in the left-field visitors' bullpen started cheering as the ball headed their way.

AP

Washington Nationals catcher Wilson Ramos (40) celebrates with starting pitcher Jordan Zimmermann (27) and third baseman Kevin Frandsen, right, after a baseball game against the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014, in Washington.

"When he caught it," Dunn said, "it was just like, `Really? Did that just happen?'"

Said Yelich: "With that on the line, that might be one of the best plays I've ever seen. Ever."

Souza jogged in and Zimmermann greeted him with a hug. Souza handed over the baseball, which Zimmermann shoved in his back pocket.

"It was too loud to hear everything he was saying," Souza said. "But I heard, `I love you' and `Thank you.'"

Souza's name now belongs alongside those of other players delivering superb catches to save no-hitters. The name that kept coming up in the Nationals' clubhouse was Dewayne Wise, the defensive replacement whose juggling, tumbling grab in the ninth saved Mark Buehrle's perfect game for the White Sox in 2009.

No major leaguer had thrown a no-hitter in Washington since Bobby Burke did it for the Senators in 1931 against Boston.

Athletics 4, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, Oakland finally clinched its third consecutive playoff berth as Sonny Gray (14-10) pitched a six-hitter to win for the first time in five September starts and Josh Reddick had an RBI triple.

The A's lost 30 of their previous 45 games before winning game No. 162. They play the win-or-go-home wild-card game Tuesday night at Kansas City.

After winning the AL West title the past two seasons, Oakland went into its game Aug. 10 a big league-best 72-44, good for a four-game division lead and an 11-game edge in the wild-card standings.

Rookie Nick Martinez (5-12) allowed two runs and four hits over 5 2-3 innings.

Mariners 4, Angels 1

In Seattle, the Mariners were eliminated in the fifth inning when Oakland's game ended, but Felix Hernandez (15-6) pitched five shutout innings to secure the AL ERA title at 2.14, just beating Chris Sale of the White Sox (2.17).

Seattle's 87 wins in the first season of All-Star second baseman Robinson Cano were its most since 2007. The Mariners had a 1 1/2-game lead for the second wild card on the morning of Sept. 7 but lost 12 of their next 17 games.

Cory Rasmus (3-2) was the loser for Los Angeles, which finished with the major leagues' best regular-season record at 98-64 and plays Kansas City or Oakland in the division series.

Tigers 3, Twins 0

In Detroit, David Price (15-12) allowed four hits in 7 1-3 innings, clinching Detroit's fourth straight AL Central title.

Ian Kinsler hit a solo homer in the third, and the Tigers added two more runs in the eighth off Kyle Gibson (13-12).

Detroit entered with a postseason berth already wrapped up, but the Tigers led the division by only one game over Kansas City. The Tigers face Baltimore in the AL division series.

Royals 6, White Sox 4

In Chicago, right after Detroit secured its fourth straight division title, Kansas City manager Ned Yost started pulling some of his regulars from the lineu

Kansas City hosts Oakland on Tuesday night in their first playoff appearance since 1985.

Chicago's Paul Konerko went 0 for 3 with two strikeouts on the final day of his 18-year big league career. A six-time All-Star, Konerko finishes with a .279 average, 439 homers and 1,412 RBIs.

Casey Coleman (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for his first win since Sept. 9, 2011 to beat Daniel Webb (6-5). Chicago finished 73-89, 10 more wins than year.

Cardinals 1, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, St. Louis clinched its second straight NL Central title before the first pitch when Pittsburgh lost to Cincinnati, then beat Arizona 1-0 on Kolten Wong's RBI groundout in the sixth inning off Josh Collmenter (11-9).

St. Louis finished 90-72 and opens their NL division series Friday at the Dodgers.

The defending NL champions scratched scheduled starter Adam Wainwright, using five relievers instead. Justin Masterson (3-3) pitched two scoreless innings and Carlos Martinez got two outs for his first save.

Arizona had two hits and finished 64-98, the second-worst record in team history.

Reds 4, Pirates 1

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto (20-9) hit an RBI single off Tony Watson (10-2) in the eighth and gave up six hits in eight innings, including Neil Walker's homer. Kristopher Negron added a two-run homer off Justin Wilson.

Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his 36th save in 38 chances.

Pittsburgh hosts San Francisco in the NL wild-card game Wednesday, with the winner advacing to a division series against Washington.

Giants 9, Padres 3

In San Francisco, Buster Posey and Adam Duvall homered, and starter-turned-reliever Tim Lincecum (12-9) pitched two scoreless innings for San Francisco (88-74).

San Diego (77-85) lost its final three games and finished third in the NL West at 77-85. Robbie Erlin (4-5) allowed four runs and four hits in 1 2-3 innings

Yankees 9, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Derek Jeter went 1 for 2 with an RBI infield single in the final game of his 20-year big league career, raising his career batting average to .310.

Three days after Jeter's emotional farewell in New York, pinstripe-wearing fans filled Fenway Park for Jeter's finale, chanting for him and the visiting Yankees and standing for each of his at-bats. After a hard line-drive out in the first inning, Jeter delivered career hit No. 3,465 as part of a four-run third inning, then left for a pinch runner.

The AL East rivals who will watch the playoffs together from the outside for the first time in 20 years.

Michael Pineda (5-5) earned the victory for the second-place Yankees, who finished 12 games behind Baltimore.

Clay Buchholz (8-11) gave up Ichiro Suzuki's two-run triple. The last-place Red Sox (71-91) are the first team in big league to go from worst to first and back to last in three consecutive seasons.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 5

In Los Angeles, Adrian Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to finish with a major league-leading 116 RBIs,

The Dodgers' 94 wins were their most since going 95-67 in 2009 and they ended the regular season without a losing streak longer than three games.

Zack Greinke (17-8) defeated rookie Christian Bergman (3-5), setting a career high for wins.

Colorado's Justin Morneau won the NL batting title, finishing at .319 after he grounded out as a pinch hitter in the eighth. The Rockies went 66-96, including a franchise-worst 21-60 road mark.

Mets 8, Astros 3

In New York, Jose Altuve talked his way into the lineup and went 2 for 4 to finish with a .341 average and become Houston's first batting champion. Detroit's Victor Martinez was 0 for 3 and wound up at .335.

Bobby Abreu sparked the decisive rally with a base hit in his final big league at-bat. Lucas Duda homered and drove in four runs, and Bartolo Colon (15-13) reached 15 wins for the eighth time. The Mets (79-83) finished tied for second in the NL East, their highest spot in the standings since 2008.

Houston (70-92) improved by 19 wins over last year, the second-best turnaround in the majors behind the Angels. Duda's two-run double off rookie Nick Tropeano (1-3) snapped a fifth-inning tie, moments after Abreu singled to left.

Braves 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Emilio Bonifacio led off the game with homer off Cole Hamels (9-9), and Freddie Freeman added an RBI single in the first.

Luis Avilan (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings, and Craig Kimbrel got his league-leading 47th save.

Philadelphia (73-89) finished with an identical record to 2013 and had consecutive losing seasons for the first time since 1999-00. The Phillies were last for the first time since 2000.

Orioles 1, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Jonathan Schoop hit a fifth-inning homer off R.A. Dickey (14-13), and Miguel Gonzalez (10-9) allowed five hits in five innings to become the fourth starter on Baltimore (96-66) to reach 10 wins.

Toronto (83-79) finished out of the playoffs for the 21st straight season, the longest drought in baseball. The Blue Jays were 38-24 on the morning of June 7, six games ahead of Baltimore in the AL East, then went 45-55.

Indians 7, Rays 2

In Cleveland, rookie Zach Walters and David Murphy hit solo second-inning homers off Alex Cobb (10-9).

T.J. House (5-3) gave up Sean Rodriguez's leadoff homer in the second.

Cleveland won 85 games for its first consecutive winning seasons since 2000-01. Tampa Bay went 77-84, its first losing season since 2007.

Cubs 5, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Anthony Rizzo had a two-run homer in the first off Mike Fiers (6-5), becoming the Cubs' first Cubs left-handed hitter with 32 homers since Rick Monday in 1976. At 73-89, the Cubs improved from 66-96 last year and 61-101 in 2012 as they seek their first World Series title since 1908.

Jacob Turner (6-11) allowed two runs and four hits in five-plus innings, and Hector Rondon got his 29th save.

Milwaukee lost 22 of its last 31 and finished third at 82-80, missing the playoffs for the third straight year.

Europe wins the Ryder Cup again

GLENEAGLES, Scotland (AP)—The tone was set by Rory McIlroy, the best player in the world. The winning shot came from Jamie Donaldson, a Ryder Cup rookie.

Europe added another layer to its Ryder Cup dominance on Sunday by leaving no doubt who had the best team, if not the best players. Behind two early comebacks that showed its resolve, Europe clinched the cup with four matches still on the course.

With a 16 1/2-11 1/2 victory, Europe kept that gold trophy for the eighth time in the last 10 tries.

McIlroy played some of his best golf this year—even for a guy who won the last two majors—by trouncing Rickie Fowler to put the first point on the board. Donaldson finished off the Americans with a 9-iron that settled 18 inches from the cup on the 15th hole at Gleneagles and set off the celebration.

"It came down to me to close it out," Donaldson said. "But it's all about the team."

That concept appeared lost on the Americans.

Not long after the closing ceremony, Phil Mickelson said the Americans have strayed from the winning formula at Valhalla in 2008 under Paul Azinger—their only victory in these matches dating to 1999. Even with U.S. captain Tom Watson sitting six seats away, Mickelson said that American team was invested in each other, which was different from Watson's style of doing it his way.

It was an awkward way to end another bad week for the Americans in the Ryder Cup.

Watson defended his philosophy, though he conceded he might have erred in using some players who were too tired, leading to a 10-6 deficit going into Sunday singles.

"The bottom line is they kicked our butts," Watson said. "They were better players this week."

AP

Europe team captain Paul McGinley, center right, and his team hold the trophy after winning the 2014 Ryder Cup golf tournament at Gleneagles, Scotland, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

Watson said he had a pit in his stomach watching the Americans blow a 10-6 lead two years ago at Medinah. The PGA of America brought him back as captain—at age 65, the oldest in Ryder Cup history—hopeful he could repeat some history. Watson was the last captain in 1993 to win on European soil.

It might not have mattered where this was played.

Graeme McDowell rallied from 3 down after five holes to close out his match against Jordan Spieth on the 17th hole. Justin Rose was 4 down after six holes when he won four straight holes with birdies against Hunter Mahan, and got up-and-down for birdie on the 18th to give Europe a half-point.

Rose went unbeaten for the week at 3-0-2.

That set the stage for Donaldson, a 38-year-old from Wales playing in his first Ryder Cup. He seized control over Keegan Bradley at the turn, and then it was a matter of when Europe could pop the champagne. Donaldson was so locked in on his task that he was unaware that he had retained the cup for Europe when he was 4 up with four holes to play. From 146 yards in fairway, he fired a 9-iron at the flag and let the club twirl through his hands.

It was close to perfect.

Watson walked over and shook his hand, and then put his arm around McGinley as they headed to the green. Bradley got onto the putting surface, and as soon as he saw Donaldson's ball next to the cup, he removed his cap and shook hands.

McGinley talked all week about a template of European success. The message was to embrace their role as the favorites, and to be proud that they had earned it. And the final instruction was to avoid complacency. Europe won the Sunday singles session for the second straight Ryder Cup.

"I didn't execute the plan. All these guys sitting at this table did," McGinley said with the 17-inch trophy on display. "I know how difficult it is to play in a Ryder Cup. I know when your heart is jumping out of your chest how incredibly excited and nervous you are. But we relish this challenge. We did it with a smile on our face, which is so important. And we did everybody proud."

The Americans had a few bright spots.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	1	0	.667	66	49
Buffalo	2	2	0	.500	79	75
Miami	2	2	0	.500	96	97
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	79	96

South

Houston	3	1	0	.750	87	67
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	136	95
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	60	110
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	58	152

North

Cincinnati	3	0	0	1.000	80	33
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	103	60
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	97	99
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	74	77

West

San Diego	3	1	0	.750	102	63
Denver	2	1	0	.667	75	67
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	61	65
Oakland	0	4	0	.000	51	103

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	122	104
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	115	86
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0	.500	103	91
Washington	1	3	0	.250	95	109

South

Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	131	113
Carolina	2	2	0	.500	73	96
New Orleans	1	3	0	.250	95	110
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	119

North

Detroit	3	1	0	.750	85	62
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	92	96
Minnesota	2	2	0	.500	91	84
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	92	100

West

Arizona	3	0	0	1.000	66	45
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	83	66
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	88	89
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	56	85

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

goals in the first half and Joe Villacrusis ended the quarter with three straight baskets. Itibus took over from Basa and Villacrusis in the fourth, as PSS moved to within single digits, however Fernando and Devero came to MBI/Anchor's rescue to win the opener.

In the second game, Shirley's also closed out strong en route to the 14-point win.

Shirley's saw its once 14-point advantage down to 8 points, 82-74, after Joeten's Ferdie Tobias hit a triple from the right corner, 2:43 left on the clock. However, that was also the closest Joeten could get as it was held scoreless in the remaining minutes of the match, while a pair of charities from Elmer Esdrelon brought Shirley's lead back to twin digits. Two straight undergoal stabs from Vince Manibusan clinched the win for Shirley with under one minute left in the match.

Matt Duenas top-scored for Shirley's with his 28 points before he fouled out midway in the fourth, while John Jugos added 14 and Erick Dela Rosa and Esdrelon contributed 12 and 11, respectively. Alex Lauron paced Joeten with his 16 markers.

Meanwhile, four more teams debuted in the JP World caging yesterday with McDonald's scheduled to meet Top Development, Inc. in the first match last night and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. set to duel Docomo in the second game.

First Game

MBI/Anchor 70 – Devero 21, Fernando 21, Capalad 9, Lizama 9, Zapanta 4, Garcia 3, Viola 2,

PSS 67 – Basa 20, Itibus 20, Diaz 10, Villacrusus 8, Manibusan 5.

Scoring by quarters: 20-13, 44-26, 54-44, 70-67.

Second Game

Shirley's 88 – Duenas 28, Jugos 15, Dela Rosa 12, Esdrelon 11, Rabasto 6, Manibusan 5, Usi 4.

Joeten 74 – Lauron 16, Teregeyo 12, Tobias 11, Kwon 10, De Leon 8, Jacob 4, Sambile 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-15, 46-33, 68-59, 88-76.

TALAVERA

From Page 28

first day.

He did not play on the final day but his score survived the challenge of the 26 others that were chasing him for the monthly crown.

Talavera pocketed $90 after beating last month's winner Percy Omechelang, who settled for $45, after falling short by 21 pinfalls.

Omechelang, who had a 679 on the first day, started slow in the final rolloff with a 182 but recovered with a pair of 201 and 212 before closing with a 208 for that 803 and a 200.75 average.

M.J. Aldan finished third with 794 (160, 205, 205, 224) to go home with $30. That was his best score after he only managed 725 (184, 167, 209, 165) on the final day.

Camacho, meanwhile, posted a 29-pinfall win over closest pursuer Yho Villavicencio to bag the $80 cash prize.

Camacho had a four-game total of 728 (161, 193, 224, 150) against Villavicencio's 699 (208, 170, 161, 160).

Villavicencio, who did not play in the first day, won $35 while Gloria Omechelang came in third with a 671 (168, 183, 165, 155) good for $20.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

2-2 draw in the second game of the weekend competition.

With the victory, MP United U12 now qualifies for the 2014 Choco Milk Cup Finals, which will be held on Nov. 30. MP United U12 is composed of Go and Rei Sekiguchi, Danielle Colombo, Mark Esalan, Eun Syu Hahn, Tony Kim, Cullen Taisacan, Oliver Lee, Bryan Cayabyab, Maaya Sato, Sam Ryu, Kaito Sawaki, and Andy Kim.

The QR2 winner will be joined in the finals by Qualifying Round 1 winner Matansa FC, NEA Cycle Team, and Tinian Premier Club. Matansa notched the first seat to the finals after beating Shirley's FC and Kanoa FC teams in the April qualifier of the National Elite Academy-organized event. NEA is a special program of Northern Mariana Island Football Association and a brainchild of former NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel. It trains selected young players in three cycles every year and at the end of each cycle, the elite group is pitted against teams from various football clubs.

NEA Cycle 2 players opened the hostilities in the second qualifying round last weekend, but fell to Paire Football Club, 1-2. Raffi Lee scored the pair of goals for Paire, while John Canape hit the lone shot for NEA Cycle 2.

Up next was the MP United-Tan Holdings tussle with Esalan and Hahn drilling one goal apiece for the former in the second and 15th minute. Khotaro Goto knocked the two goals for Tan Holdings, making his first in the 10th minute and his second and the equalizer in the 19th.

After the draw with Tan Holdings, MP United played back-to-back games and this time won over NEA Cycle 2, 2-0. Oliver Lee and Go Sekiguchi hit the board for MP United, which bagged its second victory and sealed its spot in the finals after shutting down Paire FC in the last game of the day, 5-0. Lee shone anew in MP United's second win, as he made a hat-trick against Paire. He notched two goals in the first half, while Esalan contributed one to give MP United a 3-0 advantage at the half. When the game resumed, Lee found the back of the net again, while Tony Kim completed the blowout with his only goal in the tournament late in the game.

In other results, Tan Holdings recorded its two victories against NEA Cycle 2, 3-1, and Paire FC, 2-0. Versus Paire, Goto recorded the first goal (18th minute), while Thaipi Austria delivered the second in the sixth minute of the final half. Versus NEA Cycle 2, three different players scored for Tan Holdings with John Michael Rojas hitting his target in the first half and Austria and Luis Claridades lighting up the board in the final frame. Ichiro Borja tallied the lone goal for NEA Cycle 2.

Tinian, Rollers A blow out opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian and the Rollers A cruised to victories in the U18 division of the 2014 BANMI Youth League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Rollers A demolished the CNMI Girls Nationals, 86-36, last Thursday, while Tinian pounded DYS last Friday, 65-37. Tinian now has a 2-0 record for the solo first place in the nine-team field, dislodging DYS from the top spot, as the latter dropped to a 2-1 record. The Rollers A gained its first win after losing its debut, while the Girls Nationals fell to a 0-2 card. KFC (1-0), Dough Boys (1-0), Chalan Kanoa Saints (0-1), Rollers B (0-1), and the Ol'Aces (0-1) complete the U18 field.

Tinian ended DYS' winning run after outgunning its foe in the second half. Tinian scored at least 20 points each in the last two quarters, while DYS was held to single digits both in the third and fourth periods.

DYS was still ahead at the halftime break, 26-11, when Tinian made the comeback in the third, more than doubling the former's production in that canto, 20-7, to grab the lead, 41-33. Eight different players hit the board in Tinian's third-quarter turnaround, while three players combined for the dismal 7 markers of DYS.

DYS' offense then turned from bad to worse in the fourth canto, as it logged only 4 points off Djay Ong's two field goals. In contrast, Tinian kept distributing the wealth well with seven players contributing at least one basket apiece in the final frame.

Kobe Mendoza led Tinian with his 17 points, 13 of them came in the pivotal second half. Mark Babauta chipped in 9, while five other Tinian players added at least 5 markers each. Ong paced DYS with his 13, while Jess Santos recorded 10, but had only 2 points in the entire second half. The rest of DYS players combined for only 10 points.

In the other U18 game last week, the Rollers A showed consistency on offense in the first three quarters to seal the win early. The Rollers A dropped 20-plus points in the first three periods, 22 points in the first and 26 each in the second and third, to zero in on their first win as they were way ahead, 74-30, entering the final canto.

The Girls Nationals fell on a very deep hole after three quarters, as they were held to 4 points in the second period and had a so-so offense in the first and third, nailing only 13 markers each. The all-female team also played flat in the fourth, converting only 6 points to suffer a bad beating, as the Rollers A walked away with the 50-point winning margin.

William Camacho top-scored for the Rollers A with his 17 points, while Irvin Malonzo registered 13 and Markel Toves and Kyle Rios added 12 and 10, respectively. Rachel Abrams had 14 points for the CNMI Girls Nationals.

The Ol'Aces' Karlo De Leon, seen here losing his balance on his way to the basket during their game against the G-Rollers in the U21 division last Friday, is also playing for Tinian in the U18 division of the BANMI youth caging and contributed to their 65-37 thrashing of DYS last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

THURSDAY

Rollers A 86 – Camacho 17, Malonzo 13, Toves 12, Rios 10, Arciaga 8, Factor 6, Babauta 6, Deocares 4, Wei 2.

CNMI Girls Nationals 36 – Abrams 14, Pagarao 6, Travilla 5, Ito 4, Pena 3, M. Kautz 2, Sablan.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 46-17, 74-30, 86-36.

FRIDAY

Tinian 65 – Mendoza 17, Babauta 9, San Nicolas 6, Nabors 6, J. Sablan 6, Sanbergen 5, De Leon 5, D. Sablan 2, Epity 2.

DYS 37 – Ong 13, J. Santos 10, Montes 4, Manalili 2, Pamintuan 2, Muna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 21-26, 41-33, 65-37.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A 9-6 loss to the Jokers IT&E Voyagers dropped the Smoke Pub Saipan TV Hustlers to third spot in the 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League.

Voyagers continue to pile up wins in Tuesday League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Jokers IT&E Voyagers continue to pile up wins that would secure for them the 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League crown.

The Voyagers' latest victims were Smoke Pub Saipan TV when they dealt the visiting Hustlers a 9-6 trouncing in results of the three matches that were played in various bars on the island last week.

Jokers IT&E was actually trailing Saipan TV, 4-3, after the six games in the singles and the first of three doubles matches played.

Erwin Gomez, Robert Sanciangco, and Senen Pangilinan downed Joshua Woodson, Marc Brian Nelvis, and Roman Rodriguez in their respective singles matchups.

Pangilinan then teamed up with Rowel Mariano to beat the Voyagers' duo of Rodriguez and Rolly Villanueva in the doubles.

Woodson and Villanueva bounced back in the second doubles when they bested the Hustlers pair of Sanciangco and Joey Lucido to tie the contest at 4-4.

Both teams then alternated in winning the next four games to keep the score tied at 6-6.

Mark Butac, Rodriguez, and Nelvis sealed the win for the Voyagers after defeating Jerry Soriano, Sanciangco, and Lucido in the final three singles matches, respectively.

The Voyagers now have a 65-25 record followed by sister team Jokers Str8 Shooters' 57-33 slate. The Hustlers are at third at 55-35.

Jhonny's Crazy 8 (52-38), Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang (27-63), and Lanchera Girls (14-76) complete the six-team field.

In other results, the Str8 Shooters posted a 10-5 decision over Sang&D'Gang, while the Crazy 8 won by forfeit against the Lanchera Girls.

Tomokane, 3 others to join Guam bodybuilding tilt

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

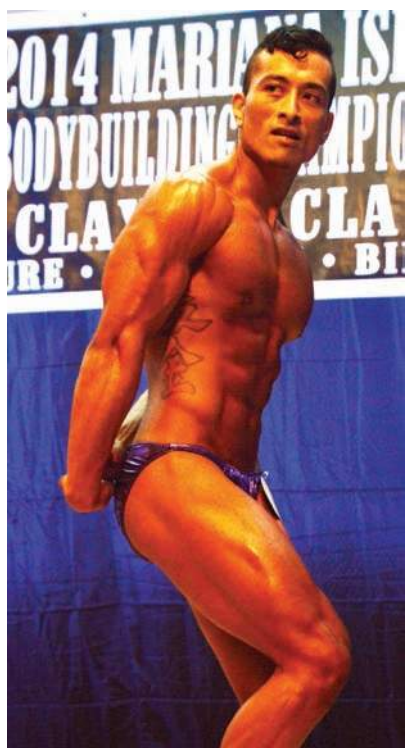
Aaron Tomokane will join three other local bets that will be competing in next month's 2014 Michelob Bodybuilding & Body Fitness Championship and International Invitational in Guam.

The Guam National Physique Federation-organized tournament will take place at the Leo Palace Resort in Yona on Oct. 25.

Tomokane, fresh from winning the overall title in the 2014 edition of the Mariana Islands Bodybuilding Dee Clayton Classic on Saipan last week, will be competing in the physique division along with Gerald Galang.

Jun Ming will try his luck in the bodybuilding category, while Chom Star Gordon will join in the women's bikini contest.

Tomokane, a 21-year-old Gold's Gym personal trainer, was the top welterweight in the Dee Clayton Classic then earned the judges' nod for the overall crown against bantamweight and lightweight champions Ming and Tristan Ecalnea.



JON PEREZ

Aaron Tomokane will try his luck in next month's 2014 Michelob Bodybuilding & Body Fitness Championship and International Invitational in Guam.

Galang, meanwhile, placed second behind Vince Aldan in the Open Physique division, while Gordon ruled the Women's Bikini and Physique classes against Stephanie Yagi and Mona Indalencio Corpuz.

Japanese bets are also expected to vie for top honors in the Bodybuilding (junior, open and Masters), Physique (male and female open), Body Fitness or Figure (male and female open), and Bikini categories.

The GNPF will be holding a press conference and weigh-in/check-in on Oct. 24, Friday, at 2pm also at the Leo Palace Resort.

The GNPF is also using the tournament for its national championship where the Guam bets have the option to join the international division. Those competing in the international category, however, are barred from joining the nationals.

Bantamweight (143.30 lbs. or 65k), lightweight (154.32 lbs. or 70k), welterweight (165.34 lbs. or 75k), middleweight (176.36 lbs. or 80k), and heavyweight (Over 176.36 lbs. or 80k) are the tentative list of men's bodybuilding weight classes.

Gore powers 49ers past Eagles to avoid 3-game skid

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Shirley's, MBI/Anchor win opening games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Micronesian Brokers. Inc. Anchor got off to a good start, prevailing in the opening games in the 2014 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MBI/Anchor played in the curtain-raiser and edged Public School System, 70-67, while Shirley's downed Joeten in the second match, 88-74. Both MBI/Anchor and Shirley's led in the first period of their respective matches and withstood their foes' repeated comeback wins to start their campaign in the nine-team league on a winning note.

Ivan Devero and Angelo Fernando lifted MBI/Anchor to the 3-point win, as they scored 21 points apiece and knocked down crucial baskets in the homestretch. Devero scored three important free throws, while Fernando drilled MBI/Anchor's last 3 markers. MBI/Anchor's 1-2 punch combined for 12 of the team's 16 points in the fourth quarter to someone offset the 13 points Maverick Itibus made in PSS' final push in the payoff period.

PSS played catch up in the entire second half, as it faced a 26-44 deficit at halftime. The Bob Coldeen Sr.-coached PSS could not find the hot hand in the first half as it made only 13 points each in the first and second quarters, while MBI/Anchor had at least 20 markers apiece with Devero and Fernando anchoring the team's offense.

PSS then made a little headway in the third to cut the deficit to a manageable number, 44-54, as Preston Basa fired 10 points after being held to two

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The four participating teams pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Choco Milk Cup Qualifying Round 2 last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

MP United tops Choco Milk Cup QR2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United U12 ruled the 2014 Choco Milk Cup Qualifying Round 2, besting three other teams in last Sunday's competition held at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

MP United finished the round-robin tournament with a 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record, tying Tan Holdings FC's mark. The Kennedy Izuka-coached team eventually won the tiebreak, as it scored more goals than Tan Holdings, 9-7. Goals for decided the winner of the qualifying tournament after MP United U12 and Tan Holdings remained tied in the head-to-head record with the opposing squads engaging in a

See MP UNITED on Page 26

Talavera, Camacho tame SBC lanes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Perennial contenders Robert Talavera and Diana Camacho ruled the recently concluded two-day Budweiser Monthly King and Queen of the Lanes September roll-off held at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

It was the fourth monthly crown for Talavera and first since winning three straight from January to March, while Camacho nailed her third crown after back-to-back victories in June and July.

Talavera, a many time perfect gamer, posted a four-game total of 824 (221, 227, 213, 163) for a 206 average on the

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Robert Talavera, right, and Diana Camacho show off their winnings after ruling the September roll-off of the Budweiser Monthly King & Queen of the Lanes.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Matt Duenas goes up for an acrobatic shot as he is challenged by Joeten's Rio Jacob during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.